THE TIMES

HEALTH
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No 64,189 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28 1991 40p

Sainsbury joins shops rebellion

Ministers refuse to act against Sunday traders

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND ROBIN YOUNG

THE government yesterday rejected demands that it should act against stores flouting Sunday trading laws, but it promised to bring forward plans to reform the 1950 Shops Act.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-General, provoked furious protests when he told MPs that he would not intervene as it was "the responsibility of local authorities to decide their own course of action".

His refusal to act also drew condemnation from Marks & Spencer, which will remain closed on Sundays. Clinton Silver, its deputy chairman, said: "We had been hoping for a strong lead from the government either to condemn the law-breaking or to suspend the relevant section of the relevant act for the Sundays before Christmas to allow shops to open legally."

Sir Patrick announced his decision as Sainsbury, the biggest supermarket chain in Britain, said it would join the movement led by Safeway, Asda and Tesco by opening 175 of its larger stores on three Sundays before Christmas. Gateway, also said it would open more stores on Sundays next month.

Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister, pointedly refrained from condemning Sunday opening, but commended companies that intend to abide by the law. "I do not condone the plans of some major retailers to open their shops on Sundays before Christmas."

She said intensive talks had been held with interested bodies to discuss trading laws reform, but "at this stage the common ground is limited". The uncertainty over European Community law had also clouded the issue. "It is," Mrs Rumbold said, "our intention to bring forward proposals for reform once the legal position is clear."

Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs accused the big stores of trying to bully the government into abandoning existing laws. They also claimed that cash donations to Conservative party funds lay behind the government's refusal to act.

Stuart Randall, Labour's frontbench spokesman, said the government's "grossly irresponsible" stance would force others to break the law. "The government isn't going to enforce the law and that has serious implications for our democracy . . . Its policy is being dictated by certain large companies and there is some concern that some of those large companies are substantial donors to the Conservative party."

Sir Michael Neubert, Tory MP for Romford and a former minister, said that an attempt at large-scale law-breaking would have serious implications for the government. "It is imperative the law is enforced."

Sir Patrick said that the uncertainty surrounding the 1950 Shops Act and undertakings he would have to give to pay damages if he lost in the courts had made him decide that it was inappropriate for him to seek civil injunctions against traders.

The law was not, however, being suspended. "Local authorities can continue to apply for injunctions, moreover any trader who trades on Sunday relying only on the present uncertainty remains liable to criminal proceedings," he said. "The enforcement of the law is a matter for me alone as the Attorney-General . . . not for the government."

Sir Patrick said that the House of Lords had acknowledged that the law was uncertain because of an apparent conflict between the Shops act and Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome. The question has been referred to the European Court.

No local authority contacted yesterday was planning to take court action against stores. Cleethorpes borough council said, however, that it would investigate any complaints received from the public. The Association of District Authorities said that the law was unenforceable in its current state. The appeal court has ruled that local authorities taking out injunctions must bear responsibility for losses should they lose. The matter will be considered by the Lords next week.

Leading article and Letters, page 17



Escape: Khieu Samphan fleeing to an armoured personnel carrier as a rock is thrown at him

Major rejects timetable on EC integration

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

JOHN Major accepted last night that he might have to go to the brink to secure a deal at Maastricht amid signs of deepening difficulties in his talks with European Community leaders.

In talks in Rome and Bonn with Giulio Andreotti and Helmut Kohl, the prime minister made plain that he would not go along with any plan for a binding timetable that commited Britain to automatic moves to European integration in the mid-1990s.

The Italian and German leaders were among the six Christian Democrat premiers who met privately in Brussels on Tuesday to consider the proposal. The idea, shrouded in confusion, appeared to be that in return for dropping references to a "federal goal" from the draft, Britain would sign up to moves towards political union that would automatically come into effect in a few years.

Senior ministers were preparing their backbenchers for a British signature on the economic treaty at Maastricht, if not the political union treaty. Norman Lamont said that while "we are not home and dry" he was hopeful. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said it would be absurd to throw away the gains Britain had made in the negotiations.

On political union Herr Kohl yesterday set out what he called a compromise in a speech to the Bundestag. He confirmed it was impossible to agree on the "federal goal". He had been quoted earlier as insisting, at the Christian Democrats' mini-summit, on a binding post-Maastricht timetable, with a step by step plan for political union, common foreign policy and powers for Euro MPs. But diplomats yesterday suggested that such views were closer to the stand taken by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, and stemmed from German foreign ministry briefings rather than Herr Kohl's office.

In the Bundestag Herr Kohl made clear that as far as he was concerned extensions of powers of the European parliament should only be introduced after the next European elections in 1994, with a further advance after the 1999 election. It was better to take two steps forward on this than none at all.

He said he preferred to have contentious subejcts brought into the treaty through an "opening clause" which would stipulate that in in five or six years time a particular subject could come under community competence. A German government spokesman said the chancellor would like an "evolutionary" process whereby the community automatically would become responsible for a particular area.

Britain might be prepared to go along with various areas being reviewed but without a predetermined outcome.

For the compromise to work, both sides will need a different interpretation of what the "opening clause" means. The German chancellor wants to be able to claim that the inclusion of these subjects in the treaty means that he has succeeded in advancing political union. Mr Major needs to be able to show that the words do not bind Britain to agree a future take over by the community.

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Compromises found, page 9
Lamont hopeful, page 23



Revenge: the Cambodian leader after the attack

Lynch mob attacks Cambodian leader

The return to Phnom Penh of Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan almost ended in murder and has threatened peace moves, reports ***James Pringle***

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan fled Phnom Penh after narrowly escaping with his life yesterday from a mob that ransacked his house and punched and kicked and almost lynched him.

At several stages, as stone-throwing crowds attacked the villa Khmer Rouge officials had moved into only the day before, it looked as if the man who wrote the blueprint for the fanatical Khmer Rouge revolution in which up to a million Cambodians died would himself perish.

Beaming and saying he way "very happy" yesterday morning when he flew in to the capital that his black-garbed Khmer Rouge troops forcibly evacuated in 1975, Khieu Samphan looked pale and exhausted and was nursing a head wound when he left seven hours later on a special plane.

Diplomats said the horrifying scenes of violence yesterday threw into uncertainty the Cambodian peace process on which so many countries had made so much effort. Peace accords were signed in Paris on 23rd October. "This has not torpedoed the process, but thrown it into turmoil," said one envoy. "In a way, you can say the Khmer Rouge got what they deserved, but what does it mean for the Cambodian people? Say what you like about the Khmer Rouge, they have got to be part of the peace process or the war will continue."

As police of the Phnom Penh regime stood by doing almost nothing, part of a crowd of several thousand people shouting "Khmer Rouge assassins" stormed into the house and up the stairs just four hours after the 60-year-old Khmer Rouge leader arrived from Bangkok under the terms of the peace agreement.

As they burst into the room, the white-haired patrician Khmer Rouge chief, who is, in fact, only a lieu-

Continued on page 22, col 1

UN agrees to police Yugoslav war zones

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council took the first step yesterday towards sending a peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia, which its ambassador said could eventually involve 10,000 troops.

The 15-nation council unanimously approved a resolution drafted by Britain and its European Community partners backing efforts by Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy for Yugoslavia, to arrange a peacekeeping operation in the war-torn country. But the resolution passed yesterday requires a further vote of authorisation by the security council before any troops are actually deployed.

Council members promised "to take appropriate action without delay" to send the peacekeepers if Mr Vance asks for them when he returns from a third trip to Yugoslavia next week. But the council emphasised that no UN peacekeepers can be sent unless the warring factions adhere to the UN-brokered ceasefire agreement signed last Saturday.

Although Britain supported the resolution it has said that its troops will not take part in the first UN peacekeeping mission in Europe.

Mr Vance is negotiating what he calls an "ink-blot" peacekeeping mission in which UN troops and police are sent to troublespots, and not placed along Croatian borders as the breakaway republic has asked, or deployed to protect Serbian enclaves inside Croatia as the federal government wants.

Soccer fans' militia, page 10



Blakelock case pair go free

THE two men convicted with Winston Silcott of murdering PC Keith Blakelock six years ago were freed on bail last night to await the quashing of their convictions by the Court of Appeal today.

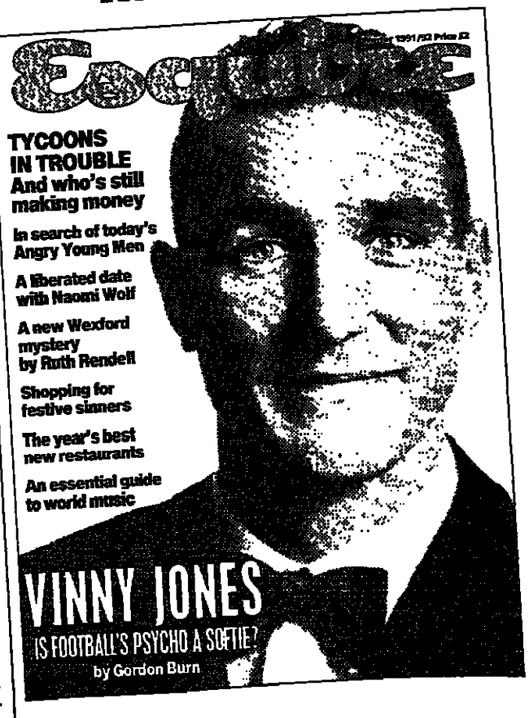
Engin Raghip, aged 24, and Mark Braithwaite, aged 23, were released by the court after counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions told the judges that the prosecution would never have gone ahead had it known of the "apparent dishonesty" of Det Chief Supt Graham Melvin, who led the murder enquiry.

Raghip's wife, Sharon, later blamed the press, saying that it had put tremendous pressure on the court to convict the men.

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Letters, page 17

A better title for

VINNY JONES
RUPERT MURDOCH
RUTH RENDELL
...and YOU



OUT NOW

TODAY IN THE TIMES

ROSES, ROSES



Joan Plowright lives on her memories of Browning and Tennyson in Mike Newell's *Enchanted April* — "a completely happy film" reviewed by Geoff Brown
Page 15

THREATENED



The **short-toed eagle** is among 132 species or subspecies facing extinction in the pollured countries of the former communist bloc
Page 12

LONG VIEW



There is no secret to long life, the experts say, even when you're already old. Simply give up smoking, improve your diet, take daily walk and remember that prevention is better than cure Page 13

CHEQUE MATE



Carol Thatcher settled up yesterday when her failure to meet £32 in costs after a court ordered her to pay her poll tax was made public Page 3

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16 pages of top jobs in today's appointments section, circulated in Britain

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'Forgotten boy' brought into civilisation

By TIM JONES



Saved: an RSPCA official holds two kittens from the house

THE forgotten boy rescued from the rat-infested house he shared with his mother amid dead and dying pets was last night sharing a room with her in a children's home as Surrey social services department tried to decide their fate.

As the boy, said to have long blond hair and an "angelic face", acclimatised perhaps for the first time to a clean environment with modern facilities, Graham Gatehous the director of social services denied that his department was to blame.

Apart from his illegitimate birth being registered, no official records appear to exist to indicate that for 11 years the boy lived a strange and lonely life in the village of New Haw, near Weybridge.

Last night, while the mother and boy, described as "inseparable", began to adjust to a radically changed life, Mr Gatehous said: "I strongly rebuff any suggestion it is the responsibility of the social services department. If anything, it is a community responsibility in the wider sense of the word."

He added: "There is no evidence to suggest the mother and boy should be split up although if that is necessary it will be necessary."

The boy's hidden life emerged after police had broken into the two bedroomed terraced house at the weekend to investigate theft claims. The boy was found lying in a bed next to his mother, aged 31.

Police were shocked by the filth and squalor and Tony Glue, the RSPCA superintendent called to the scene, described it as the worst experience of his 20 years' service. He discovered 74 animals, 28 of them dead, with cages and hutches covered in excrement three inches deep. One guinea pig had been dead for so long it had mummified.

Mr Glue said: "It was very upsetting to realise that a human being could be capable of treating animals in this way." In the filthy yard, a sticker on the windscreen of a derelict car urges people to "help animals around the world".

Mr Gatehous said once the boy had been born there would have been no need for further checks by the various agencies if the family doctor had been satisfied everything was in order. "People move about all the time and it would not be possible to

Continued on page 22, col 2

Appeal court says cases were prejudiced by actions of detective heading murder enquiry

Two more freed in Blakelock case

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE two remaining members of the Tottenham three were released on bail last night pending the expected quashing of the life sentences imposed on them almost five years ago for the murder of PC Keith Blakelock during the Broadwater Farm riots.

Three appeal court judges agreed to the release of Engin Raghip, aged 24, and Mark Braithwaite, aged 23, after it accepted that the cases against them had been prejudiced by the actions of the police officer heading the murder inquiry who had apparently tampered with a statement made by the third defendant, Winston Silcott, aged 32. Silcott was cleared by the appeal court on Monday but remains in prison as he is serving a life sentence for another murder. The release of Raghip and Braithwaite into the custody of their solicitors at the end of the third day of the appeal hearing was greated with applause in court and tumultuous cheers on the street outside.

They were reunited with their family outside the doors to the court cells. Both men looked happy but slightly bewildered by the sudden turn of events as they hugged their relatives. When they appeared outside the building several black youths who had attempted to form a security screen to the waiting taxi were swamped as the crowd surged forward.

Among those who greeted the two men were members of the Birmingham Six who were released after police statements were found to be falsified.

The two men were escorted to their taxi by Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Grant, the North London MPs who have campaigned for their release since their trial in 1987. Mr Grant said: "Justice has at last been seen to be applied to everyone, black and white. This is good news for all parts of the community."

The prosecution's position was made clear in an unexpected statement by Roy Amlot, QC, who conducted the original prosecution.

In a short statement at the close of Raghip's appeal by Michael Mansfield, QC, Mr Amlot said: "Mr Mansfield has asked the court to take into account the effects or likely effects of the apparent misbehaviour of Mr [Det Chief Supt Graham] Melvin on Raghip's case and the case as a whole.

"We must look at the broad picture, which is that Mr Melvin was the officer in charge of the case, he was the officer who had close control of the whole of the murder enquiry and he was the officer to whom the junior officers looked in respect of any significant decision.

"Mr Mansfield asks, would the Crown have gone on against either defendant knowing of the apparent misbehaviour of the senior officer in the case?

"The answer is unequivocably that we would not have gone on against Raghip and Braithwaite or any of the other defendants having learned of the apparent dishonesty of the officer in the case."

John Hendy, QC, counsel for Braithwaite, said that besides tampering with the evidence, Mr Melvin had been responsible for a breach of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act by refusing to allow Braithwaite to see a solicitor for almost two days after his arrest.

Braithwaite had also not had proper attention paid to his complaints of claustrophobia, another breach of the Act, he suggested. Mr Hendy will continue his appeal today when medical evidence will be presented.

NICK CORNISH



Happy but bewildered: Mark Braithwaite leaving the court after being freed on bail yesterday

Police chief waits for CPS decision

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE future of Det Chief Supt Graham Melvin, who headed the PC Blakelock murder enquiry and interviewed Winston Silcott, depends on a report sent to the Crown Prosecution Service by Essex police earlier this month.

Mr Melvin, aged 50, was suspended from duty in September and a decision on any prosecution is said to be some time away.

A detective much respected within Scotland Yard, he took over one of the most emotive murder cases and has been dogged by its repercussions. He came to the case as senior man in the Yard's serious crime branch with a string of commendations.

Based in north London with 60 officers, Mr Melvin was aware that the entire force was watching the progress of his investigations. When the first charges were made within ten days after the murder, the news was reported to Sir Kenneth Newman, then commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

However, the controversy over events at Broadwater Farm and the treatment of suspects, often juveniles, was not over with the end of the trial. A 13-year-old had been acquitted by the order of the judge after evidence of his treatment by the police.

Mr Melvin, accused of three offences at a discipline hearing over the juvenile, was found guilty of one. Sentenced to a reprimand he appealed to the home secretary and won last July. By that time the Essex inquiry, which led to the Court of Appeal this week, was under way.



Melvin: dogged by case's repercussions

US tells Libya to end terror

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BRITAIN and America yesterday demanded drastic action by Libya to atone for the Lockerbie bombing and to end its sponsorship of terrorism.

The two governments insisted that Colonel Gadaffi's regime compensate the families of the 270 Lockerbie victims, surrender the two Libyan agents charged with carrying out the bombing, accept responsibility for their actions, and co-operate with the continuing Anglo-American investigation.

The French government joined London and Washington in further demanding that Libya conduct no further terrorist acts, end all support for terrorist groups and prove its renunciation of terrorism "by concrete actions". France recently charged six Libyan agents with responsibility for blowing up a French airliner over the Sahara in 1989, killing 171 people.

The joint statement issued by the White House said it expected Libya to comply promptly and in full with the demands, though privately officials say they see little chance of that. It did not spell out the consequences of non-compliance. The Bush administration expressly has not ruled out military retaliation, but the next step would be punitive international economic and diplomatic sanctions, including a possible embargo on Libyan oil sales.

Yesterday's statement had been delayed to get French participation, and Paris's support should make it easier to European-wide backing for such measures. Oil accounts for 90 per cent of Libya's export earnings, and most of it is sold to a handful of European countries.

American relatives of the Lockerbie victims said yesterday's demands were a necessary next step but saw no chance of Libya complying.

King puts more troops in Ulster

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRA battalion of troops is being deployed in Northern Ireland, Tom King, the defence secretary, announced yesterday. The temporary measure is part of the continuing review of security following increased violence in the province.

The deployment consists of 500 to 600 men of the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire regiment. Mr King made the announcement at Drumadd Barracks in Armagh, about 15 miles north of where the body of an Ulster Defence Regiment soldier shot by the IRA was found dumped early in the morning.

The Glosters are expected to remain in the province for only a matter of weeks. The army said that several hundred UDR reservists called up just under two weeks ago would continue in full-time service for the time being.

The increased army presence follows an upsurge in sectarian violence, in one phase of which seven people were killed in 24 hours, and reflects fears that the IRA may be preparing a Christmas bombing campaign in Northern Ireland. The arrival of the Glosters brings the total regular complement in the province to about 11,000, about the same level as after a similar temporary increase in September.

The latest victim of the IRA, a full-time soldier in the UDR, was found lying on a country road about a mile outside the village of Creggan, near the border in Co Armagh. It is thought he had been shot in the head.

The IRA claimed responsibility for the killing. It said that it had abducted two men in the village of Crossmaglen on Tuesday and had shot one of them after identifying him as a soldier. Last night security forces had cleared the area and army bomb disposal experts were checking for booby trap devices before recovering the body.

In Belfast yesterday, a man was in a satisfactory condition in hospital after being shot. Police said that he had been sitting with two other people in a car in the south of the city when a gunman opened fire from a passing car.



BA defies rebuke on fares

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways last night attacked a European Commission ruling that 40 business class fares within Europe were too high. The airline said it had no intention of cutting the fares, many of which had already changed.

"The decision has no impact on British Airways' current fare levels," said BA. "The decision will not further competition and is an endorsement for inefficiency — discriminating against airlines with lower costs. This is the first time the EC have intervened on European fares and we do not believe they have assessed our Club Europe fares against the full costs of providing a business class service in Europe."

The commission was asked to intervene by the Civil Aviation Authority after British and European airlines applied for two increases at the time of the Gulf war. The first increase was approved because of higher fuel costs but the second was rejected by the CAA as unjustified.

Under new rules governing air fares within Europe, however, both countries at either end of a route must object to the fare changes before they can be outlawed. Regulators in Greece, Spain, France, Italy and Scandinavia did not turn down the applications, so the increases went ahead.

The CAA was so incensed that it asked the commission to investigate but had to wait almost a year for its decision, during which time many of the fares changed, with at least one going down.

Last night the commission finally responded with a complex and technically based decision which has so confused the CAA that it asked for time to study the implications before replying.

HOW AIR FARES HAVE MOVED

HEATHROW TO	OCT 1990	DEC 1990	APRIL 1991	CURRENT
NICE	£172	£181	£202	£[illegible]
ROME	£210	£224	£[illegible]	£[illegible]
COPENHAGEN	£175	£186	£211	£218
ATHENS	£280	£293	£[illegible]	£[illegible]
MADRID	£135	£194	£[illegible]	£[illegible]
BRUSSELS	£116	£130	£136	£136
LISBON	£136	£209	£[illegible]	£[illegible]

Prices paid for single Club Class fare

Fake wine for the Christmas toast

BY DAVID YOUNG

THE toast is "a Merry Christmas", but the red wine in the glass could have been coloured with beetroot juice, according to trading standards officers who have monitored what is available to put in the stockings this year.

Liverpool standards officers yesterday unveiled a "top ten' list of cheap fakes at their own Christmas grotto yesterday. The list included a practice golf kit which almost killed a four-year-old Liverpool boy.

Daniel Deakin picked up a golf ball attached to elastic anchored to the ground by a metal spike and as he walked off the spike flew out of the ground and pierced his chest, coming out under his arm.

Among the counterfeit items that have been seized in Liverpool was a range of fake wines, including a false Mouton Cadet. All the bottles contained the same white "home-brewed" wine which is made to look red with beetroot colourant.

The fakers use empty bottles from restaurants which they refill, recork and reseal. The wine has been selling at half price in small off-licences in the North-West.

The officers fear that Gucci watches, Giorgio perfume, Fila sports shoes, Louis Vuitton luggage and Boss baseball jackets are among the fake designer labels poised to flood the Christmas market.

Many of the dangerous goods illegally carry the "CE" mark, which should mean that they meet European safety rules. The Liverpool officers have also seized more than £150,000 worth of fake tape recordings this year.

Chief officer Peter Mawdsley said: "There seem to be more fakes on the Christmas market this year than ever before."

The Association of London Authorities will today announce a campaign to end the trade in cheap and shoddy furry toys often offered on market stalls over Christmas.

The association says many children choke on such toys appearing on the market at Christmas. Toys should only be bought from reputable dealers, it says.

The "top ten" toys are:

1 **Furry animals:** could choke a child; eyes of some furry bears and elephants could be pulled off and swallowed. At markets and independent shops, about 30p

2 **Bowl pistol:** spring-action gun could crush child's finger in barrel. Chinese-made, about 80p.

3 **Counting cats:** painted wooden toy containing 18 times permitted safety limit of lead. Sold by mail order at £4.95 from Stocking Fillers Ltd of Cheshire.

4 **Bang flag gun:** plastic pistol firing a flag marked "bang" which could trap child's finger or injure eyes if used near face. Taiwan import, £3.99 nationwide.

5 **Golf set:** elastic-return golf training set with 6in metal spike that almost killed one boy. Malibu brand.

6 **Desert Storm crawling soldier:** battery-operated soldier that fires rifle, containing seven times legal lead limit. Malaysian-made, £5.99.

7 **Toy racing car:** car with detachable wheels which could be swallowed. Sold under Everbright brand, £1.99.

8 **Toy ironing board and clothes maiden:** could splinter or trap child's hand. Made in Rumania, about £10 across Britain.

9 **Bouncing putty:** pink putty which could be mistaken for candy or chewing gum. Sells around 50p, illegally imported from Taiwan.

10 **Toy bear:** 8in tall bear with eyes that could be bitten off by child, illegally imported, £2.

Operation costs can vary by up to 300%

BY JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

COSTS of hospital operations vary as much as 300 per cent even after geographical differences and teaching overheads have been taken into account, says a report from health service finance directors published yesterday. The Healthcare Financial Management Association suggests that millions of pounds could be saved if hospitals moved towards the average cost of the services they provided.

Its document, which examines the costs of 38 different medical specialties in hospitals throughout the country, shows widespread variations in the cost of operations in the same part of the country in similar hospitals. A gynaecological operation in North-West Thames can vary from £180 to £591, while an orthopaedic operation in Yorkshire ranges between £321 and £924. The report claims that if all hospitals moved to the average cost of an orthopaedic operation there would be a potential saving of £42.7m. Similarly £43.3m could be saved if hospitals of similar type met the average cost of a paediatric operation.

Chris Grimes, secretary of the association, said that in some hospitals costs could be higher due to the severity of cases treated, or clinical practice. "We are not saying that the NHS can definitely save this money. But there are enormous variations which cannot be accounted for by case-mix differences alone. Managers should have to justify their costs."

High honours



The opera singer Dame Joan Sutherland (above) and Professor Francis Crick, the scientist who first cracked the genetic code, have been appointed by the Queen to the Order of Merit. They join a select band of 24 eminent men and women whose most recent appointee was Margaret Thatcher. In terms of pure achievement, it is the highest honour that the sovereign can bestow.

Robson payout

Bobby Robson, the former England football manager, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday over a newspaper report criticising him for accepting a job with the Dutch club PSV Eindhoven in the run-up to the World Cup last year. News (UK) Ltd, publishers of *Today*, accepted that its accusations were "wholly wrong and unfair" and agreed to pay an undisclosed sum.

£1.1m bible

A 15th-century bible fetched £1.1 million at Christie's in London yesterday, selling to the New York dealer H.P. Kraus. Described by the auctioneers as the most important early printed book to come up for auction since they sold the Gutenberg Bible in 1987, yesterday's example was printed with type cast directly from the matrices struck in the workshop of Johann Gutenberg.

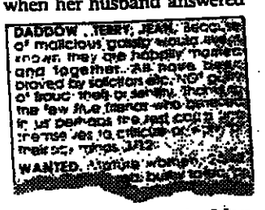
Man killed after mystery ad appears in newspaper

BY RAY CLANCY

POLICE yesterday appealed for help in tracing the killer of a man who was shot dead on his doorstep after an advert appeared in his local newspaper denying rumours that his marriage was in difficulties and that he was guilty of fraud and theft.

Detectives believe someone in the village of Northiam, near Hastings, East Sussex, must have seen the late-night caller who knocked on the door of Terry Daddow's house on Tuesday and shot him at point-blank range. Last night three men were being held by police in connection with the killing but were expected to be released.

The Daddows had lived in the village for a year. Jean Daddow, aged 52, was in bed when her husband answered



Puzzling: the *Wealden Advertiser* advert

the door at 10.30pm. She heard a man's voice, followed by a shot. Mr Daddow, aged 52, an unemployed financial consultant who used to work for a bank in Tenterden, Kent, apparently put the advertisement in the *Wealden Advertiser* to end gossip about his family. He married his wife three years ago and they have four children by previous marriages.

The advertisement read: "Daddow, Terry, Jean. Because of malicious gossip would like it known they are happily married and together. All have been proved by solicitors etc. NOT guilty of fraud, theft or senility. Thanks to the few friends who believed in us perhaps the rest could find themselves to criticize or work for their sick minds."

Detective Superintendent Brian Foster, who is leading the investigation, said he was anxious to trace Mr Daddow's former clients. "This was a savage and deliberate act," he said. "The advertisement indicates that the Daddows were concerned that people were gossiping about their affairs and wanted to put the record straight. Clearly we want to know what sort of gossip is referred to. It could provide a motive for what was a cold-blooded killing."

Police have not ruled out that the advertisement could have been placed by someone other than Mr Daddow. An incident room has been set up at Hastings and Mr Foster appealed for villagers who saw anything to contact the police.

Ray Rolles, the village postmaster, said Northiam was shocked by the killing. "Mr Daddow was a very pleasant and cheerful man, very likeable," he said.

Roger Daddow, the dead man's brother, said he was mystified by the shooting and the advertisement. "I can't put any interpretation on it at all. If Terry was experiencing some difficulties he didn't tell me about them." Mr Daddow, aged 43, a civil servant, said.

He said that his brother had retired from Lloyds Bank in Tenterden 18 months ago. He spent a lot of time caring for his garden and took on gardening for other people. He had been advising clients on financial matters but he did not know how many.

"I would be very surprised if Terry was involved in any sort of money-lending business, but in this day and age you never know," he said.



CHRIS HARRIS

Out of school: Peter Tatchell, centre, and gay and lesbian activists leaflet pupils outside Haverstock school, north London, during the lunch break

Gay campaigners take protest to school gates

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

GAY and lesbian activists distributed leaflets outside a secondary school in Camden, north London, yesterday as they launched a nationwide campaign to combat prejudice in schools.

Beneath the title "What should you do if a friend tells you they are lesbian or gay?" and pictures of gay couples, the leaflet urged young people to accept all forms of sexuality and respect homosexual friends. It also listed famous gay and lesbian people from a 16th-century pope to the pop singer Jimmy Somerville.

Peter Tatchell, of the gay protest group Outrage, said: "We're responding to kids' own desire to find out more about lesbian and gay people. Our protest is not targeted against this particular school. Our number one priority is to draw public attention to victimisation in the playground."

Danny McLoughlin, aged 17, from Hull, said he was helping to leaflet at Haverstock secondary school because of the difficulties he had experienced when he told his school and parents he was gay. "I came out at school when I was 16," he said. "I was very frightened and isolated. No one should have to feel like that."

Janet Wallace, the school's headteacher, said she was unhappy that Haverstock had been chosen for the lunch-hour protest. "It is inappropriate to approach school students directly by leafleting like this." The 900 pupils were advised to stay in during the meal break.

Those who ventured out had mixed opinions about the leaflet. Alice Leeves, aged 16, said she thought the demonstration was a good idea. "The school doesn't stand for sexism and racism," she said. "But they should talk about lesbian and gay sex in sex education classes." Vicki Ballington, also 16, said she disapproved of the leafleting. "I've got gay friends," she said. "But I don't think it should be put to people like this."

The campaign has already provoked an angry response from some gay campaigners, who question Outrage's tactics, and MPs. Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat MP, said yesterday: "It is quite wrong for any group — however moral, however virtuous and however right — to leaflet school-children entering and leaving school."

Social worker raped teenager

BY CRAIG SETON

FRANK Beck, the former Leicestershire social worker convicted of sexually and physically abusing boys in his care, was yesterday found guilty of raping a teenage girl and abusing two other boys.

A jury convicted him on a majority verdict of raping the girl, now a woman in her 30s, at the Ratcliffe Road children's home, Leicester. He was also convicted on a unanimous verdict of buggering her.

Beck, aged 49 and a former Royal Marine, was the officer in charge of three children's homes for 13 years until 1986. The homes were run by Leicestershire social services in Leicester and Market Harborough.

The woman, in evidence to Leicester crown court earlier in the proceedings, said that she faked symptoms and had her appendix unnecessarily removed to escape sex abuse at the home. She said that Beck had repeatedly raped her and threatened to have her committed to a psychiatric unit if she did not comply.

Beck was also convicted yesterday of indecently assaulting Mark Linnett, now aged 30, and of buggering Michael Finney, now aged 29. He was cleared of causing Mr Finney actual bodily harm.

The four convictions, on the third day of the jury's deliberations, bring to eight the total number of convictions against Beck. The jury has still to return verdicts on a further 15 charges against him, including indecent assault, buggery, attempted buggery and actual bodily harm. He has denied all the charges.

The jury yesterday acquitted Peter Jaynes, aged 41, Beck's former deputy, of indecent assault against a girl. On Tuesday, Jaynes, of Chatham, Kent, who had faced three charges, was found guilty of indecently assaulting Mark Linnett and causing actual bodily harm to a girl. He had denied the charges.

The jury has still to return a verdict on a joint charge of buggery with Beck facing George Lincoln, aged 39, a former residential social worker of Sudbury, Suffolk. He has denied the charge.

The jury will continue its deliberations today.

Man cleared of 'chess move' killing

BY RONALD FAUX

A MAN accused of murdering a woman who has not been seen since she left a ferry in Dublin nearly two years ago was found not guilty yesterday by a jury on the direction of the judge at Liverpool crown court.

Colin English, aged 31, a computer designer of Seaford, East Sussex, had denied murdering Therese Terry, aged 41, of Preston, Lancashire, who apparently disappeared after being seen leaving the ferry with two men. Police claimed that chess moves Mr English drew showed where she was buried. However, after legal arguments over the admissibility of police evidence, Mr Justice Scheimann ruled in favour of the defence and the prosecution decided to offer no evidence. Five charges of fraud against Mr English were ordered to lie on the file.

After the hearing yesterday Mr English said he was convinced that Mrs Terry, a former close friend, was still alive and possibly living in Canada or the United States.

Mr English has spent 18 months in custody and is considering suing Lancashire police for false imprisonment. He said that the chess moves he had drawn while in custody were just doodles. But police handed the doodles to a chess specialist for examination. The specialist, Raymond Keene, a former British champion and *The Times* chess correspondent, said that he believed the doodles were a mirror image map of Ireland, and that Mrs Terry had been murdered and buried in Limerick by a man calling himself "the black knight".

In spite of a widespread police investigation no body has been found, but after Mrs Terry vanished money began disappearing from her bank account and Mr English was arrested.

Mr English said yesterday that he had worked with Mrs Terry for eight years. He said that he had returned with her from Dublin to London a week later and they had gone together to see Frank Bruno in panto. "We parted on Victoria station the next day," he said. Mrs Terry was planning to go to Australia via the United States, he said.

His solicitor, Paul Rooney, said he had advised Mr English, whose business had collapsed as a result of the enquiry, to seek damages from Lancashire police. He accused officers of flouting the law by denying Mr English the opportunity of having a lawyer present during interviews.

Carol Thatcher pays up

BY DOUGLAS BROOM

CAROL Thatcher, the journalist daughter of the former prime minister, paid her poll tax debt with a flourish yesterday, brandishing a cheque to reporters and camera crews before posting it off to her local council.

Miss Thatcher, whose mother introduced the community charge and publicly berated those who refused to pay, was ordered by magistrates in Hammersmith to pay her £247 poll tax in September. However, although she paid the tax within four days of the court order she failed to pay a £32.32 costs order imposed by the court and the Labour-controlled council ordered bailiffs to collect the sum.

After her plight was reported yesterday Miss Thatcher emerged from her semi-detached home in Fulham to face the media. Holding up a cheque she declared :"One cheque for Hammersmith and Fulham council. I'm posting it first class. The papers said it was 32 quid, so here's 32 quid. It's a world record fuss for about 32 quid, don't you think?"

Back at the town hall Hammersmith and Fulham council's Labour leader, Iain Coleman, was attempting to play a straight political bat. The authority could not provide services unless it received revenue to support them, he said. But then the temptation proved too great and he added: "After all, the poll tax was Margaret Thatcher's idea, so it does seem rather peculiar that her daughter has chosen not to pay it on time."

The Audit Commission said last night that in spite of cost orders against people who were taken to court for non-payment, local authorities were still losing money.



Cheque mate: Miss Thatcher with the £32 payment for her overdue poll tax

Villagers take on a pivotal role

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE people living in the remote and beautiful Lancashire fell hamlet of Stonyhurst have always known that somehow they were special. Now it can be revealed why — the hamlet has been formally designated as the centre of Great Britain.

Meriden, near Birmingham, has a monument marking its status as the centre of England, but until now few people had considered where the centre of Great Britain was. Things could, however, be about to change for the people living in the handful of cottages scattered around the 400-year-old bridge over the Hodder between Clitheroe and Preston.

The revelation that Lower Hodder bridge, over which Cromwell marched his troops on August 16 1645 on his way to the battle of Preston, was the pivotal point of Great Britain was made after a group of American tourists had demanded to start their visit at the country's centre.

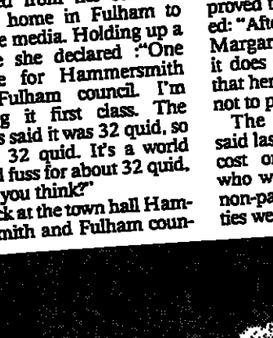
Chris Carney-Smith, who publishes Signpost Guides to hotels, said many bodies, including the AA, RAC and National Geographic Society, could tell him the centre of England but not of Britain. He eventually turned to Ordnance Survey, where researchers had made the calculations 20 years ago. The results were now gathering dust in archives in Southampton.

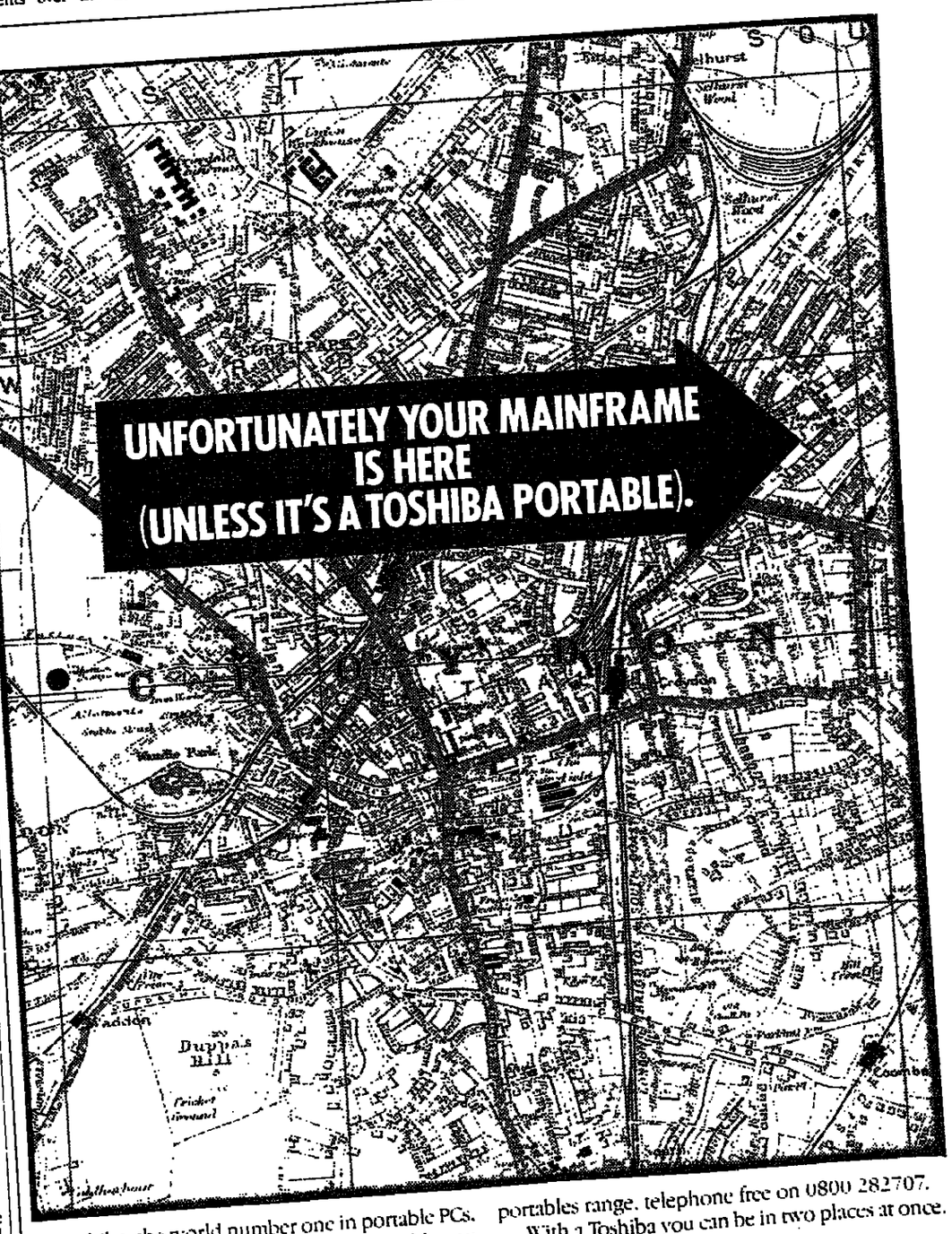
Ordnance Survey said: "We cut out maps of England, Wales, Scotland and the whole of Great Britain and suspended them from the ceiling from their extremities. When finding the centre of Great Britain, for example, we hung the wooden model from the Isle of Skye, Norfolk, the Isle of Wight, Anglesey, John o'Groat's and Land's End and then ran a plumb line down from each point. Where the lines intersected we classified as the centre.

"No one had asked us before but we are now happy to tell Mr Carney-Smith that we do actually know where the centre is." Officially it is at national grid reference SD 676424, which is 6½ kilometres (four miles) west of Clitheroe and nine kilometres (5½ miles) north of Longridge.

Mr Carney-Smith, who will include that information in future guides, says that the grid reference puts the centre spot at Lower Hodden bridge near Chaigley, although locals say he is miles out.

"The bridge is nowhere near Chaigley," said the local postmaster, Colin Roper. "It's at Stonyhurst. There are around seven or eight houses dotted around the bridge and everyone who lived there always said they were somehow special. We never quite knew why before, though."





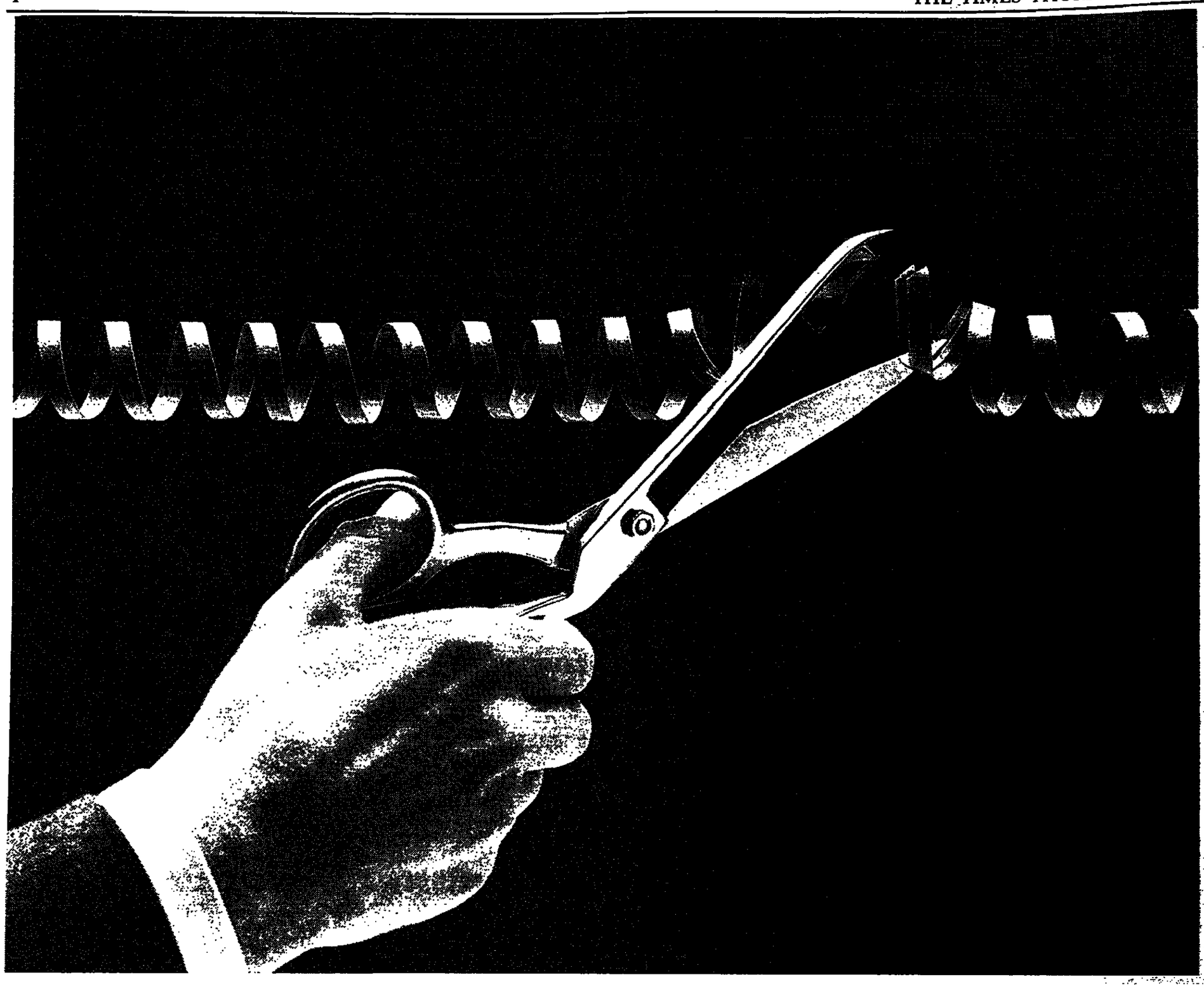
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Student prospects

Enrolment boom at polys reduces costs

BY JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POLYTECHNICS and colleges of higher education expect to cut their costs by 15 per cent in two years after another sharp rise in enrolments.

Early calculations predict almost 58,000 more students for them in 1991-2, a rise described by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, as astonishing. Although the recession has slowed the pace of growth on part-time courses, full-time enrolments are up by 16 per cent.

Courses in engineering and science, previously the most difficult to fill, are among those showing the strongest growth. Only in business subjects, where students are up by 17.5 per cent after several years of rapid growth, is the increase larger.

Bids for funded places in 1992-3 suggest a similar rise in enrolments next autumn. The government's target of 9 per cent more students was intended to squeeze unit costs by 1.5 per cent, but the scale of recruitment will mean a reduction ten times greater over two years, their funding council estimated yesterday.

The extra enrolments this year will require costs to be cut by 5 per cent rather than the 1 per cent expected by the government. Roger Maclure, finance director of the funding council, will tell polytechnic and college directors at the council's annual conference in London today that the cut may reach 15 per cent by the end of 1992-3.

Students' and lecturers' unions say many polytechnics and colleges are overcrowded, but Her Majesty's Inspectorate says standards are continuing to rise. Middlesex polytechnic students have been sitting in for a week in protest at overcrowding and budget cuts.

The funding council has decided to pay for up to 90 per cent of the places requested by institutions, but to set aside £20 million for new teaching equipment and other measures to cope with the increasing numbers of students. In the current year, polytechnics and colleges took 15 per cent more students than the council paid for, receiving fee income alone for the extra numbers.

The biggest overall increases were in colleges trying to meet proposed criteria for university status. Luton College of Higher Education and Southampton Institute of Higher Education registered increases of more than half on full-time courses.

RISING POLYTECHNIC ENROLMENTS

	Full-time enrolments 90-91	91-92	Diff	%
Anglia	2,849	3,409	560	19.7
Birmingham	4,710	5,331	621	13.2
Bournemouth	1,882	2,042	160	8.5
Brighton	4,837	5,377	540	11.2
Bristol	5,096	5,830	734	14.4
City of London	3,599	4,107	508	14.1
Coventry	4,088	4,349	261	6.4
Hatfield	3,587	4,040	453	12.6
Huddersfield	2,762	3,203	441	16.0
Humberside	3,516	4,546	1,030	29.3
Kingston	4,700	5,265	565	12.0
Lancashire	4,382	5,285	903	20.6
Leeds	5,674	6,538	864	15.2
Leicester	6,036	7,275	1,239	20.5
Liverpool	6,013	6,558	545	9.1
Manchester	9,193	9,766	573	6.2
Middlesex	4,700	5,795	1,095	23.3
Newcastle	5,592	5,659	67	1.2
Nottingham	4,530	5,035	505	11.1
Oxford	4,052	4,274	222	5.5
Central London	4,995	5,605	610	12.2
East London	4,302	4,415	113	2.6
North London	4,749	5,316	567	11.9
West London	2,438	3,218	780	32.0
South West	6,533	7,668	1,135	17.4
Portsmouth	5,648	5,965	317	5.6
Sheffield City	4,721	5,564	843	17.9
South Bank	3,600	5,199	1,599	44.4
Staffordshire	4,246	4,937	691	16.3
Sunderland	4,124	4,920	796	19.3
Teesside	2,879	3,089	210	7.3
Thames	4,629	5,675	1,046	22.6
Wolverhampton	6,311	7,032	721	11.4
Total	150,973	172,287	21,314	14.1

ADRIAN BROOKS



Bones of history: an archaeologist clearing soil from the skeleton of the Iron Age horse at Stratford. In the smaller ditch are the bones of a human being

Tube dig finds Iron Age bones

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SKELETONS of a human and a horse which archaeologists believe may have been sacrificial victims have been found in an Iron Age grave unearthed in excavations for London Underground's proposed Jubilee Line extension.

The skeletons were found lying at either end of a semi-circular burial chamber, 4ft below the surface, near the Lea river in Stratford, east London.

The grave has been dated to around 300 BC, and is being seen as one of the most significant Iron Age discoveries in the London area.

Iron Age man was of Celtic extraction, and spoke a language similar to Welsh. Throughout the period, horses were regarded as sacred and their skulls were sometimes placed as offerings at the entrances to fortifications.

The discovery of a man alongside a horse has, however, raised the possibility that both were killed as part of a religious ritual.

John Dillon, an archaeologist from the British Museum seconded to the Jubilee Line excavation team, said that few Iron Age cemeteries had been found.

"Evidence from other sites suggests that after death, human bodies were dismembered, possibly as part of a ritual offering to a diety," he said.

Because of their place in society, people often were given the special treatment of being buried whole. The alternative was that they might have been a human sacrifice, he added.

David Wilkinson, an archaeologist from the Oxford Arechaeological Unit, which is excavating the site, said: "This discovery is something special.

"The horse is likely to have been sacrificed for religious reasons. Sacrifice is a possible explanation for the remaining skeleton, although with limited direct evidence it is difficult to be sure."

London was established as a city by the Romans who conquered the local inhabitants, during which time the need for communications to the continent up the Thames and along the Lea Valley would have made Stratford more important than the capital.

☐ The remains of an Anglo-Saxon prince buried with his horse have been discovered at the Sutton Hoo burial ground at Woodbridge, Suffolk.

They are the first contents of a burial mound at the riverside site to be found intact by archaeologists since the great ship burial was unearthed in 1939.

Graduate jobs slump worsens

THE recession is still deepening in the graduate employment market, careers advisers reported yesterday (John O'Leary writes).

The number of employers taking part in next term's "milk round" of campus interviews is down by a third. Up to one in ten of this year's graduates is still unemployed.

A survey of the employment scene for 1990 graduates, published yesterday, showed a 40 per cent increase in those without work six months after leaving university. In polytechnics and colleges of higher education, the unemployment rate was already over 10 per cent.

The annual survey by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services found women more successful than men in finding jobs or places for further study. There were also wide variations in the success rates for different subjects.

University graduates in law and civil engineering escaped the worst of the downturn, with fewer than one in 50 unemployed. However, even civil engineering has suffered further in the recession, and prospects for this year's graduates are poor. Polytechnic graduates in art and design, geography, mathematics, physics and sociology were worst hit in 1990, while almost one in five of those taking a college BSc were still without work at the end of the year.

The report, *What do graduates do?*, predicted that the market would take several years to return to the levels of the 1980s once the recession ended. Norman Lloyd, the editor and director of the careers service at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, said that unemployment was expected to be higher this year, although most graduates were still finding jobs within 12 months.

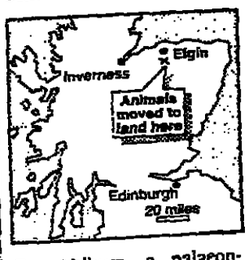
What do graduates do? (Hobson Publishing, Bateman Street, Cambridge, CB2 1LZ; £3.70)

Fish 'first came ashore in Elgin'

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE world's first animals crawled from the seas on to land near what is now Elgin in Scotland, an Oxford University scientist is claiming.

The event occurred about 367 million years ago or seven million years earlier than palaeontologists had believed, according to Dr Per Ahlberg, a palaeontologist in the university's zoology department. He made the claim after examining fossilised bones and fragments in museums across the country.



They all come from a site called Scat Craig in Grampian which was discovered in the 1820s by a local schoolteacher and excavated by amateur naturalists until the mid 19th century.

Early tetrapods, vertebrates which had lungs and gills for living on land and in the sea, have been found in Greenland, Canada and Latvia. Those finds date from the late Upper Devonian age of about 360 million years ago, whereas the Scat Craig fossils date from the middle Upper Devonian period.

What sets early tetrapods apart from fish is that they had primitive limbs with ankles and toes rather than fins. Dr Ahlberg says a tibia or shin bone taken from Scat Craig resembled early tetrapod finds but it had two joint surfaces for ankle bones. "This shows it belonged to an animal with an ankle and if you have an ankle you almost certainly also have toes," said Dr Ahlberg, whose findings are reported in *Nature*.

The scientist suspects that more than 20 other fossils, which include lower jaws and upper jaws, come from the same creature. The fish from which this first land dweller evolved had conical skulls for streamlined swimming. Dr Ahlberg said the Scat Craig fossils show the animal had a flattish skull, a feature typical of early tetrapods and today's crocodiles. He suspects that the animals acquired limbs because they were living in shallow swamp waters and needed to move from one mudbank to another.

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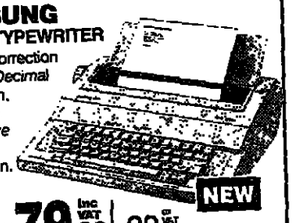
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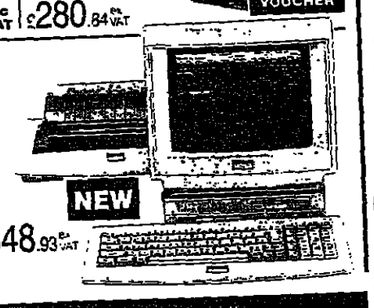


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Baker tackles urban menace

Tough joyride bill punishes passengers

BY RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PASSENGERS in cars driven by joyriders face an unlimited fine and an automatic driving ban under legislation announced by the government yesterday.

The decision to convict passengers as well as the drivers is part of the government's response to concern at the scale of joyriding.

Passengers and drivers will be held equally guilty under the Aggravated Vehicle-Taking Bill and the onus of proof is to be reversed where there has been dangerous driving or damage to property or the vehicle.

Suspects will have to prove that on the balance of probabilities they were not present when the offence took place.

Police have often been able to catch a suspected joyrider but have found it difficult to prove who was responsible for causing damage to the car, other vehicles or property.

Joyriders who kill and are convicted of murder or manslaughter will continue to face life imprisonment.

Those who cause death but cannot be charged with murder or manslaughter, usually because of a lack of evidence, would face a maximum five years' imprisonment, an unlimited fine and an unlimited automatic driving ban.

Kenneth Baker, who promised action against joyriders after riots in the North-East this summer, said: "Joyriding is a gross misnomer for destructive and irresponsible behaviour.

"The public has had enough of such behaviour, and the wrecked lives, families and properties which it causes."

The home secretary added: "The new provisions will make all those involved liable for any dangerous driving, damage, injury or death which followed from the taking of a vehicle.

"They will no longer be able to evade responsibility for these consequences just because they took place out of sight or a number of offenders may have been involved."

The maximum sentence for joyriding where no death results would be six months' jail, a maximum fine of £2,000, increasing next year to £5,000 under the 1991 Criminal Justice Act, and an automatic minimum one-year driving ban.

The new offence will apply to juveniles aged from 15 to 17 who will face custodial sentences of up to a year, while those under 15 will face community sentences. The automatic driving ban will apply to those under 17.

Mr Baker, who was accused of dithering over the bill when it failed to figure in the Queen's Speech, hopes it will receive Opposition support to ensure that it becomes law as soon as possible.

☐ A minister claimed last night that Scots were well protected against joyriders and that penalties planned for England would not be needed north of the border. Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, home affairs minister, said: "In serious cases, the common law provides for unlimited penalties."

In Scotland, joyriders can already go to jail for 12 months under the Road Traffic Act.

They can be charged at the same time under common law with theft or malicious mischief and therefore be liable for longer sentences.

☐ The RAC has begun an enquiry into how a confidential booklet on bypassing car alarms fell into the hands of a car thief.

It was found to be missing only when police found it in a recovered stolen car.

The RAC fears it may have been copied and passed on to other criminals and joyriders.

The enquiry is centred on the RAC training centre in Brescott, Walsall, from where it is believed the book was stolen.

An RAC spokesman said: "It lays out how to bypass car alarms and security systems so if someone has locked their keys in a car, the patrolman will be able to get in. An investigation is under way because we think it was stolen from Brescott."

ROBERTA PARKIN



Night watch: Lance Corporal Steve Williams of the Royal Marines shows off the night vision goggles he will be using in the hunt for deer poachers on the Quantock hills in Somerset. Wardens concerned at growing poaching of wild red deer for the venison trade have called in the marines to help them out. The soldiers, from the Norton Manor marine camp at Taunton, will be used for surveillance rather than arresting poachers. A marines spokesman said: "These guys are very good at hiding and camouflage. They will position themselves over the Quantocks in the areas most likely to be used by poachers and stay up there for a couple of days using their survival skills. The actual apprehension of miscreants would be down to the police." Chris Edwards, a Quantocks warden, said that poaching was a big threat to the estimated 500 deer. "It is impossible to set up a proper management scheme for the deer if you have poachers shooting them willy-nilly." Timing of the scheme will depend on the marines' other commitments.

Crime is paying off, say police

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CRIMINAL justice has tilted so far in favour of defendants that criminals have never had a safer time to commit crime and are making large profits with little to fear, according to police evidence to the royal commission on criminal justice, released yesterday.

To redress the balance, the police have called for a prosecution right to produce some criminal records during trials, to comment in court on a suspect's silence under questioning, greater defence pretrial disclosure, restrictions on the right to trial by jury in some areas, and pretrial reviews to shorten trial times. The proposals are in a 250-page submission made jointly by the three groups that represent all police ranks.

Commenting on the police evidence, Brian Johnson, the chief constable of Lancashire and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said that the criminal justice system had many virtues but in some areas it was inefficient or ineffective. Too many criminals were going free, he said.

He criticised the use by lawyers of tactical not guilty pleas, which could hold back a case for a year or more only to be reversed at the last moment. There were up to 48,000 such cases each year.

There was also a cynical abuse of the right to chose trial by jury. In the crown courts, 10 per cent of cases ended with defendants being bound over and another 30 per cent received no custodial sentences.

The evidence, submitted in the past week, does not support a move towards the French model of examining judges to oversee investigations, and the police reject any suggestion that the Crown Prosecution Service should decide whether suspects should be charged.

The police do not accept the need for confessions to be corroborated, arguing that it is unnecessary if confessions are properly obtained. According to prosecution figures, only 0.65 per cent of confessions are challenged in crown courts and only 0.4 per cent are overturned.

A proposal for a quasi-judicial forum of lawyers and laymen to refer cases to the Court of Appeal, put forward by Douglas Hurd, the former home secretary, and others, has also failed to win police support. The police favour greater use of retrials, ordered by the appeal court. The police evidence noted that it seemed illogical to have faith in the jury system and then disavow it later.

Animal research units hit by fires

BY KERRY GILL

ANIMAL rights activists may have been behind fires that broke out simultaneously at three veterinary research establishments on the outskirts of Edinburgh yesterday causing more than £250,000 of damage.

The centres, the Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies for tropical veterinary medicine, the Scottish Agricultural College animal behavioural science building, and the Ministry of Agriculture's veterinary investigation centre, are within a mile of each other on the Bush estate, Penicuik.

Morley Sewell, the tropical medicine director, said that more than £200,000 of damage had been caused and he had lost material collected from different countries over the past 30 years. Dr Sewell added that activists could not object to the centre as it was involved mainly in research into diseases suffered by animals in the tropics. "We don't really anticipate we would be a target because of the sort of work we do for the developing world."

Det Supt Eric John, who is leading the investigation, said: "The fact that there were three fires at the same location is obviously suspicious and that is how we are treating it at the moment." He refused to rule out the possibility that the fires were the work of extremists.

The blaze at the agriculture college was understood to have started in temporary buildings in the grounds while the fire at the veterinary investigation centre began in a sterilizing room off a laboratory. Both were quickly brought under control and little damage was done.

Yesterday many students and staff at the centres said they were convinced that the damage was the work of animal extremists.

Solicitor spent £4m fraud cash

A solicitor who defrauded banks and building societies of £4,075,226 was jailed for ten years yesterday. John McCabe, aged 41, of Edinburgh, admitted 34 charges of fraud and an attempted fraud between March 1983 and November 1990.

The High Court in Edinburgh was told that McCabe set up guest houses and nursing homes, but faced with escalating costs embarked on the biggest series of frauds by a solicitor in Scotland. He fled to Uruguay, leaving a taped confession, when accountants arrived at his firm. A week later he returned to Britain.

All the money had disappeared, the court was told. Scottish lawyers are likely to have to pay £900 each to cover the outstanding frauds.

Fans held

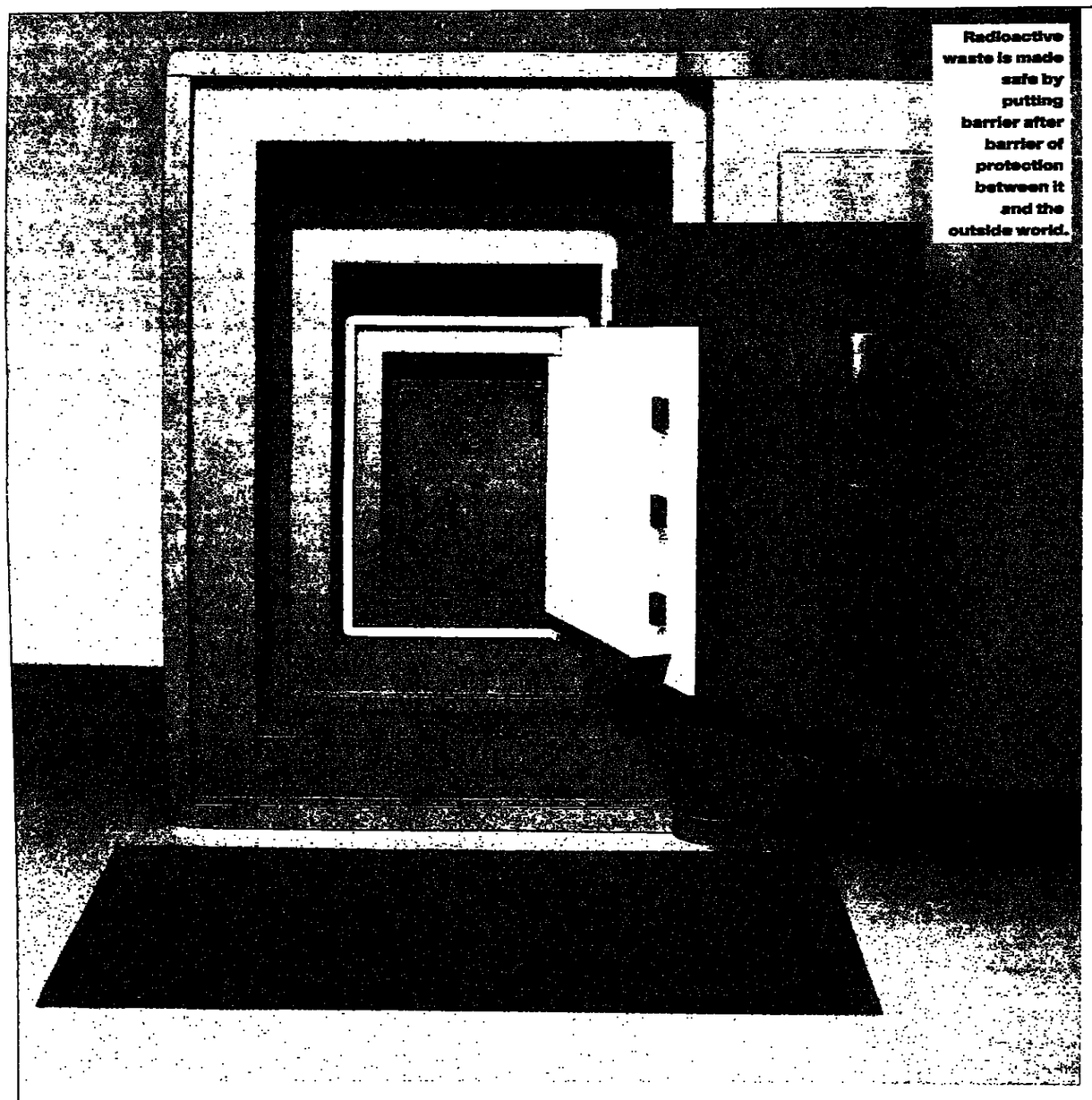
Seven Liverpool soccer fans were detained by Innsbruck police over an unpaid £700 night-club bill, missing last night's UEFA Cup third-round tie between Liverpool and FC Tyrol.

DJ cleared

A disc jockey, Tony Salmon, aged 28, of Birmingham, was found not guilty at Leeds crown court of the murder or manslaughter of a rival DJ, Frank Harris, who was stabbed during a carnival.

Cloudy outlook

A hotelier at Lyme Regis, Dorset, who axed 13 protected trees to improve his sea view was fined £3,400 and ordered to pay £1,080 compensation.



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Benn defeated as Labour confirms EC union stance

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR leaders approved a new policy stance yesterday underlining the party's "positive" approach to European political union.

The ruling national executive roundly defeated a move led by Tony Benn for a referendum before any power was transferred from Westminster to European Community institutions.

In one of Labour's strongest statements of support for economic and political union, the document states: "Labour sees the development of the political dimension of Europe as a vital component to the integration at an economic and monetary level which the party considers to be inevitable and desirable."

Neil Kinnock confronted the Euro-sceptics inside and outside his party by saying that he would not make an appeal to "crypto-nationalism". He added: "I will not try to kid anyone that there is some kind of life out of the EC or some kind of half-life within it — we are dealing with the realities."

Turning to Mr Benn and Dennis Skinner, the only two NEC members to back the referendum call (it was defeated by twenty-four to two), he said: "I will not be trying to fool people, as you are, that there can be some sort of half-life on the edge of EC activities."

He added: "Do not try to kid yourselves or kid anyone else that if a referendum ever did take place it would be on any question other than 'do you want to remain in the EC, yes or no?' That is the basic issue and the basic choice and the result would be yes." The referendum idea was "simply a device Mrs Thatcher is using to wage war against the person who beat her for the leadership. Labour will have none of it."

The document set out Labour's alternative negotiating stance for Maastricht. The main planks are: adopting the social charter and social action programme setting out working conditions and standards throughout the Community; giving priority to "widening" the European Community to include countries such as Austria, Sweden, Malta and Cyprus; establishing qualified majority voting on environmental and social issues; and giving more powers to the European parliament to exercise control over the Commission.

A Labour government taking over the EC presidency late next year, it said, would put the future widening of the Community among its top priorities. Labour would back enablement by the European parliament to initiate proposals for legislation. The parliament's right to a "second reading" on certain EC decisions would be extended to social and environmental legislation.

The document also backed new competences in certain limited fields not covered by the present treaties, including industry, tourism, public health, culture, trans-European networks and education. The document stated that it would be premature to consider qualified majority voting on foreign and security matters, and opposed any military role for the EC.

Bryan Gould, shadow environment secretary, explained Labour's support for a greater role for the European Community in environmental issues. He said: "I think we recognise that the environment does not know national boundaries; it goes well beyond each country's own jurisdiction."

One obstacle for Labour, as for the government, is the word "federal" in the draft treaty on political union. The policy paper said: "The use of the word 'federal' in the draft treaties has served to confuse rather than to clarify the debate... It is critically important that whenever a reference is made to the term there is clarity among all member countries, the commission and the parliaments about its meaning."

Europe reports, page 9

AROUND THE LOBBY

Parties get poll talks

John Major announced clearance for opposition parties to have access to civil servants from the end of the year so that they can discuss organisational changes likely to result from any change of government.

The prime minister said in a written reply that the convention was that such contacts should be authorised "in the last six months of a Parliament or when a general election has been called".

Haute cuisine for MPs

MPs and staff at Westminster can look forward to haute cuisine in their cafes and restaurants with the appointment of the first Commons director of catering services. The job has gone to Susan Harrison, a former operations manager with Roux Resturants. John Major, whose favourite foods have been well documented, once compared House of Commons food unfavourably with that being served to troops in the Gulf.

African aid

African countries received 46 per cent (£389 million) of United Kingdom gross bilateral aid last year and have a high priority in the overseas aid programme, Lynda Chalker, overseas aid minister, said in a Commons written reply. About half of multilateral aid also goes to Africa.

New bishop

The new Bishop of London, the Right Rev David Hope, was introduced in the House of Lords.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; prime minister. Proceedings on the Welsh Development Agency bill.
Lords (3): Offshore safety bill, committee.

Tories setting less store on EC pact

POLITICAL NOTEBOOK
By Robin Oakley

There has been a noticeable effort by ministers in the past few days to lower expectations over the Maastricht summit.

So far, effort has been concentrated on scenario A: the return with a deal just about saleable to the Commons that would be presented as a triumph of negotiating skill in adverse circumstances. Now there is talk, too, about preparing the troops for scenario B, best summed up as "no deal is better than the bad deal which was the only thing on offer".

Many senior Tories were agreed not so long ago that the prime minister's return from Maastricht without a treaty would be perceived as failure by the man who had promised to keep Britain "at the heart of Europe". For that school, Margaret Thatcher's intervention made it worse: no treaty would not only mean failure for John Major but also triumph for the ghost of Christmas past.

Now, many Tories see a deal also as essential to avoid a sterling crisis and the rise in interest rates that would drive their constituency organisations to despair (they pay tribute incidentally to the coolness under fire of Norman Lamont, who seems to be making something of a breakthrough with the troops after his robust and candid wind-up speech in the Europe debate).

Mr Major, it has been not once again the isolated one out of twelve. Fighting our corner would no longer be enough. People had expected Mrs Thatcher's successor to take us out of the corner.

But now there are voices within the cabinet suggesting that coming back without a treaty might not be such a disaster after all.



Lamont: his coolness is winning him friends

Labour's readiness to embrace everything European with such fervour, they reckon, has widened the government's options. And, with public opinion measured as much closer to Mr Major's pragmatic caution on Europe than to the open-armed come-hithers of convert Neil Kinnock, then it becomes quite possible for Mr Major to return and say: "I tried in good faith for a settlement, but there was nothing which I thought good enough for the British people and Parliament. We shall, of course, keep on trying."

Opinion poll evidence has led some Tory strategists to see merit in Peter Shore's argument that, by donning the mantle of the pro-European party, Labour have left themselves open to attack as a party that will sell Britain short. As he puts it: "With defence no longer the Tories strong point, this could be the Nineties equivalent for the Tories of unilateral disarmament."

So intense has been the debate at Westminster, so thoroughly has it crowded other political subjects off the stage, that politicians and commentators alike have been in danger of getting it all out of perspective.

Some ministers argued anxiously that the replacement of Bill Cash and his Euro-sceptic colleagues by a bunch of pro-Europeans as the officers of the Tory backbench European affairs committee might have "sent the wrong signals to Europe", convincing Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and others that Mr Major from that moment on had a pliantly pro-European party and no longer needed concessions.

Others soon after argued that too many Tory votes against in the two-day European debate in the House of Commons might have led European leaders to conclude that, whatever concessions were made to Mr Major, he would be unable to sign up to the deal, and therefore it was not worth making any.

The truth is that, for all the ambassadors present at that debate, Europe does not care that desperately about the fine print of British politics.

The Christian Democrat cabal and the renewed debate about the survival of the opt-out clause on the single currency have made Westminster politicians realise at last that negotiating stances, pre-Maastricht bluster and massaging of public and party opinion are not phenomena confined only to Britain. Nor are any of the various concessions won so far set in concrete.

As we were insisting when the European monetary union treaty was full of things we could not accept: everything remains negotiable until all is settled at Maastricht.

Young gives more aid for homeless

BY PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

MORE shelters for rough sleepers in London, and free transport to get to them, were promised by the government yesterday.

Sir George Young, housing minister, said that the government was providing up to £1 million to voluntary groups and local authorities to fund up to 300 places in temporary shelters. They will be open from December to March and will not be subject to a cold-weather "trigger" before they open.

Sir George also said that he was inviting housing associations to bid for a share in £3 million in grants to provide an extra 200 places in flats and houses leased from private owners. His announcement came during an Opposition debate on housing.

The cost of the London programme will be met from the £96 million already made available for the rough sleepers' initiative announced last year. To help to tackle the problem outside London, almost £20 million will be available over the next three years for grants to voluntary bodies working with the homeless throughout the country.

Opening the debate, **Clive Soley**, shadow housing minister, said that the government risked the wrath of the electorate over mortage repossessions. He said ministers' high interest rate policy was at the root of the problem and questioned suggestions that the exchange-rate mechanism could help.

"Everyone knows that the danger for the pound is that it is bouncing along the bottom of that rate," he said. "If the government is not very careful or ... simply unlucky, we will be outside it in no time and .... into a massive financial crisis."

Mr Soley added that nearly 100,000 homes would be repossessed by the end of the year while another million mortgage payers were in arrears. He demanded a mortgage rescue scheme. "There is no reason why home owners should be clobbered in this way," he said. "There is no way the government should have encouraged home ownership on such a scale and got rid of the rented sector in the way they have done — and then put up interest rates to make home ownership unaffordable for so many."

Sir George said that Labour policies would increase rather than reduce interest rates and make the position worse for home owners.

Cook, the sound-bite master, goes home with a prize

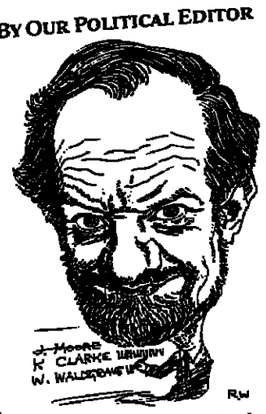
BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

ROBIN Cook remarked yesterday on receiving the prize as Parliamentarian of the Year at the annual *Spectator* lunch that there was no longer walk than that from the House of Commons library to the chamber when you were speaking in an important debate.

But if the red-bearded member for Livingston is ever nervous, he never shows it. Even Tories acknowledge him as a razor-sharp debater formidable in his combination of withering sarcasm and well marshalled statistics.

He has, too, the necessary talent for the television sound-bite, describing one recent Chancellor's effort as "a budget for the greedy, paid for by the needy". Few in politics do a better line in moral outrage.

As Labour's health spokesman, Mr Cook helped to harry John Moore into dismissal from Margaret Thatcher's cabinet and both Mr Moore's successors. Kenneth Clarke and William Waldegrave, the present health secretary, have known they have been in a fight after jousting with Mr Cook. He said yesterday that an argument that could not stand its ground in the Commons chamber did not deserve to win ground outside.



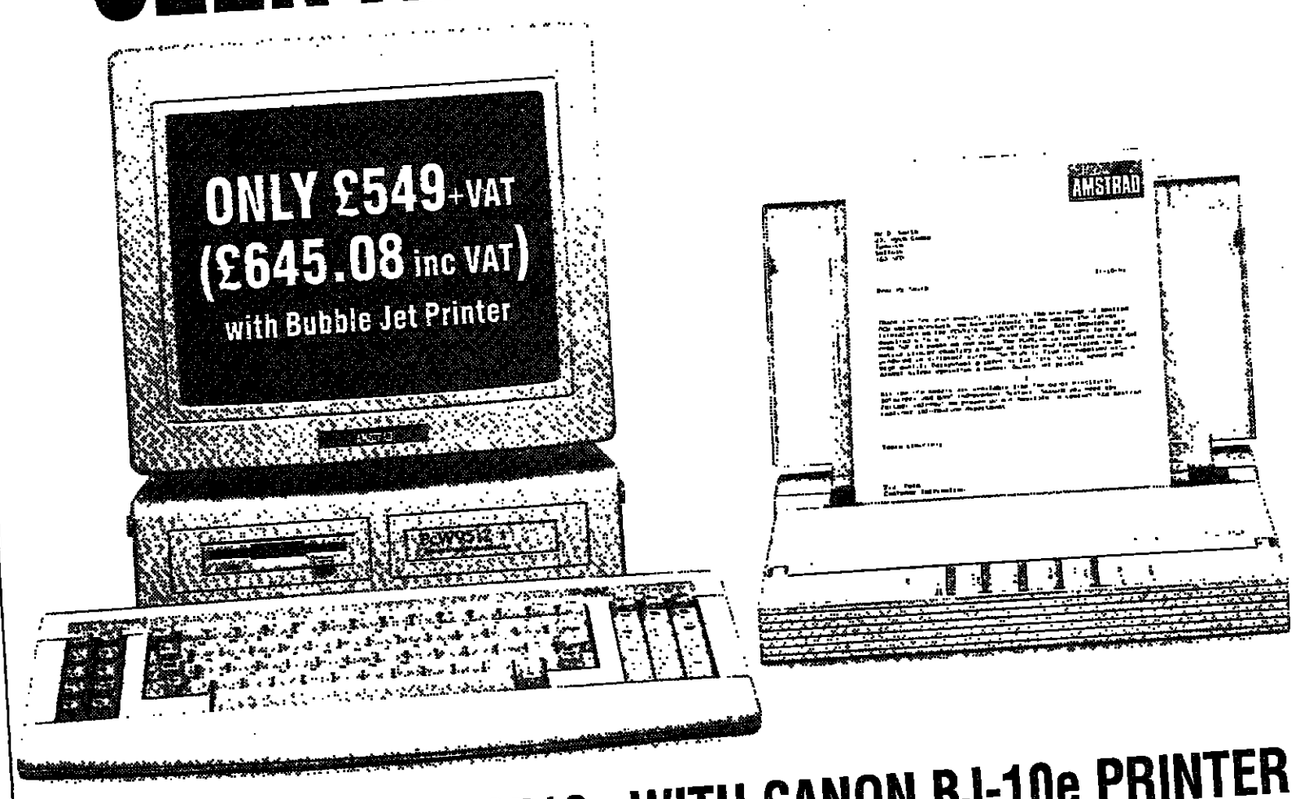
Although health has always been a good subject for Labour, Mr Cook, harrying the government over the NHS reforms, has helped to take it to the point where it is given as the largest single reason for people withholding their votes from the Conservatives.

The son of a headmaster, married to a medical consultant, Robin Cook is no Identikit Labour politician. He rides regularly, loves a day at the races and has campaigned openly for proportional representation against the party line. His obvious relish for his own cleverness does not endear him to all his colleagues.

Other award winners yesterday were: politician to watch, David Mellor; campaigner of the year, Bill Cash; backbencher of the year, Dave Nellist, with a special award to the former Labour leader, Michael Foot, who retires at the next election.

Leading article, page 17

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Equity seeks more roles for blacks

Black actors want better television parts but believe quotas are not the answer, reports **Melinda Wittstock**

CASTING directors and scriptwriters must learn to become colourblind if Britain's black and Asian actors are to achieve fair representation in film and television, Equity's Afro-Asian members said yesterday. However, calls from several black actors for strict casting quotas were dismissed as unrealistic.

At a private conference organised by Equity's Afro-Asian committee entitled "Does Colour Really Matter?", the acting union's 1,000-strong ethnic membership called instead for an action programme that would force directors and producers to award parts on ability alone, unless the script calls for an actor with specific physical characteristics.

Ian McGarry, the Equity general secretary, said that the union's council will decide in the coming months how to put its integrated casting policy into action. He told the conference he was shocked by advertisers' seeming lack of support for black actors, and promised that the union would put more pressure on them.

Art Malik, who starred in *Jewel in the Crown*, said that quotas would be open to misuse, as casting directors would be tempted to fill up the required number of Afro-Asian roles with extras. "Such an approach would mean that blacks and Asians miss out on the leading parts, hired instead to sit around a table in a pub as extras," he said.

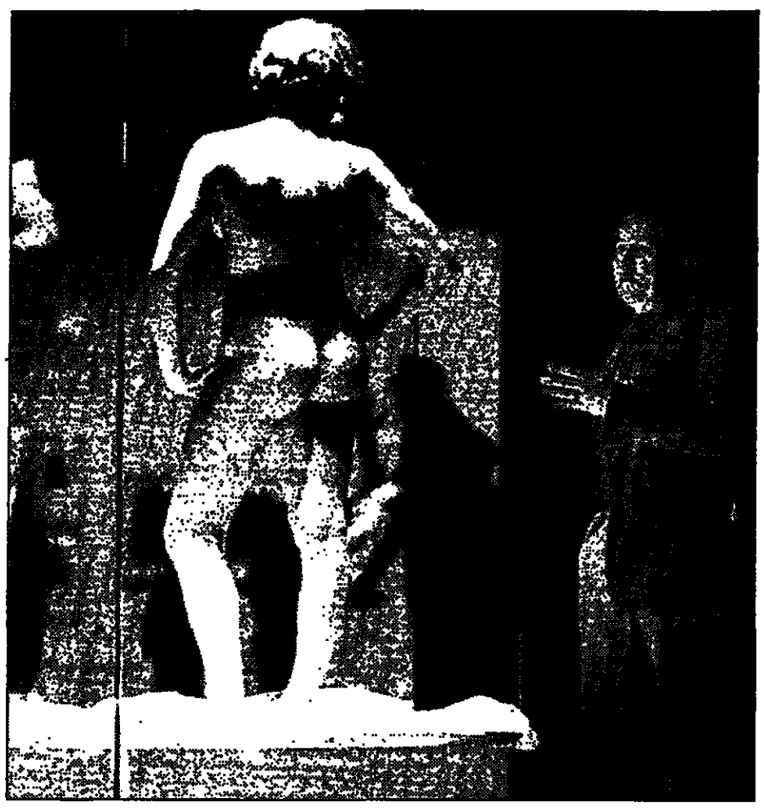
Louis Mahoney, chairman of Equity's Afro-Asian committee, believes Equity should set up a mechanism in conjunction with the Commission for Racial Equality to guarantee more roles for blacks and Asians, in line with the Race Relations Act (1976).

"We wanted quotas discussed, but I can see the difficulty with them. What we need to do is persuade employers to take an integrated approach. Shakespeare is performed all over the world, in India, in Spain, everywhere. Audiences are capable of forgetting about colour when they watch a play, but producers often forget that the audience is intelligent enough to suspend their disbelief," Mr Mahoney said.

"*Inspector Morse* is set in Oxford where there is a large black community, but how many black faces do you see? *Vandervalk* is set in Amsterdam where there is a real racial melting pot, but there is rarely a black face to be seen. Asians are never chosen to play the forensic scientist in *Inspector Wexford* even though the Home Office employs two Asian pathologists," he said.

Norman Beaton, best known as Desmond in Channel 4's sitcom *The Desmonds*, said good actors could make it whether they are black or white. But the good black actors would be underemployed and rarely hired for any non-traditional or non-stereotypical role unless writers and producers changed their attitudes.

Black casting, page 16



Beyond temptation: a visitor views a live model, representing Eve, in a glass case at a Rotterdam museum. The exhibition of human development, called The Physical Self, is staged by the British film director Peter Greenaway

Kissing gets a health warning

BY NICK NUTTALL AND ALAN MCGREGOR

A WARNING against heavy sensual kissing is being issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for World Aids Day.

The warning, covering so-called French kissing, is the first time that the United Nations body has been so explicit over the risks of this kind of contact. Last year it would only go as far as declaring that "kissing on the cheek" was safe.

An Aids specialist from the organisation indicated yesterday that the decision to issue the warning against sensual kissing "with a heavy exchange of saliva and possibly blood" was not based on any new scientific evidence. However, because sexual intercourse so often followed that kind of contact it was virtually impossible to ascertain whether the HIV virus was transmitted by the kissing, the official said.

British medical scientists have reacted to the warning with surprise. Anne Johnson, an Aids researcher at University College and Middlesex school of medicine in London, could not say how anyone might know what constitued a "heavy exchange of saliva".

She said she was also concerned that the key message about safe sex, namely the use of condoms, might get lost in the debate over kissing. "Any risk associated with deep kissing must be very small when compared with the risk associated with unprotected intercourse," she said. "I do not think we would have seen the reduction in gonorrhoea rates among gay men if there had been a big risk linked with kissing alone. What they gave up was penetrative anal sex, not deep kissing."

The warning will appear in a two-page pamphlet, *Tips for Safer Sex*, which is being made available for World Aids Day on December 1. It also advises, for the first time, that anyone involved in oral sex should wear a condom. "To be even safer, engage in imaginative non-penetrative sex," it says.

The organisation suggests that the safest sex of all is no sex. The pamphlet contains advice on the use of condoms.

• A survey of doctors in the United States found that half would not treat people with the Aids virus if they had the choice, and nearly a third see nothing wrong with withholding such treatment. Doctors withholding treatment should perhaps lose their medical licences, two doctors said in an editorial accompanying the study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Mercury cremated, page 22

City reaches for the stars

MR HAPPY, the smiling character that has symbolised Glasgow's regeneration for the past eight years, was sent packing yesterday when a new logo and slogan were adopted to promote the city (Kerry Gill writes).

The "Glasgow's Miles Better" campaign, which put the city back on the international map in 1983, gave way to "Glasgow's Alive", part of a marketing crusade whose logo has 11 shooting stars, each representing an EC country. The 12th appeared to be lost in space.

Stop the rot

Cairo: Egypt is summoning experts from around the world to a conference next year to help save the Sphinx. Experts will then have access to a host of data on its decay, gathered by instruments that have monitored the statue for more than a year. *(AP)*

Pest control

Auckland: The government has declared war on New Zealand's opossums and thousands will soon grace the tables of Hong Kong gourmets. The animal, which outnumbers New Zealand's 3.4 million people by about 22 to 1, devastates foliage in many forests. *(AP)*

Beach scum

Sydney: New deep-water sewage outfalls, designed to eliminate dirty beaches, are being blamed for polluting clean ones with grease balls and scum. The Water Board says it is because sewage is taken further out under the new system and is therefore spread wider. *(AP)*

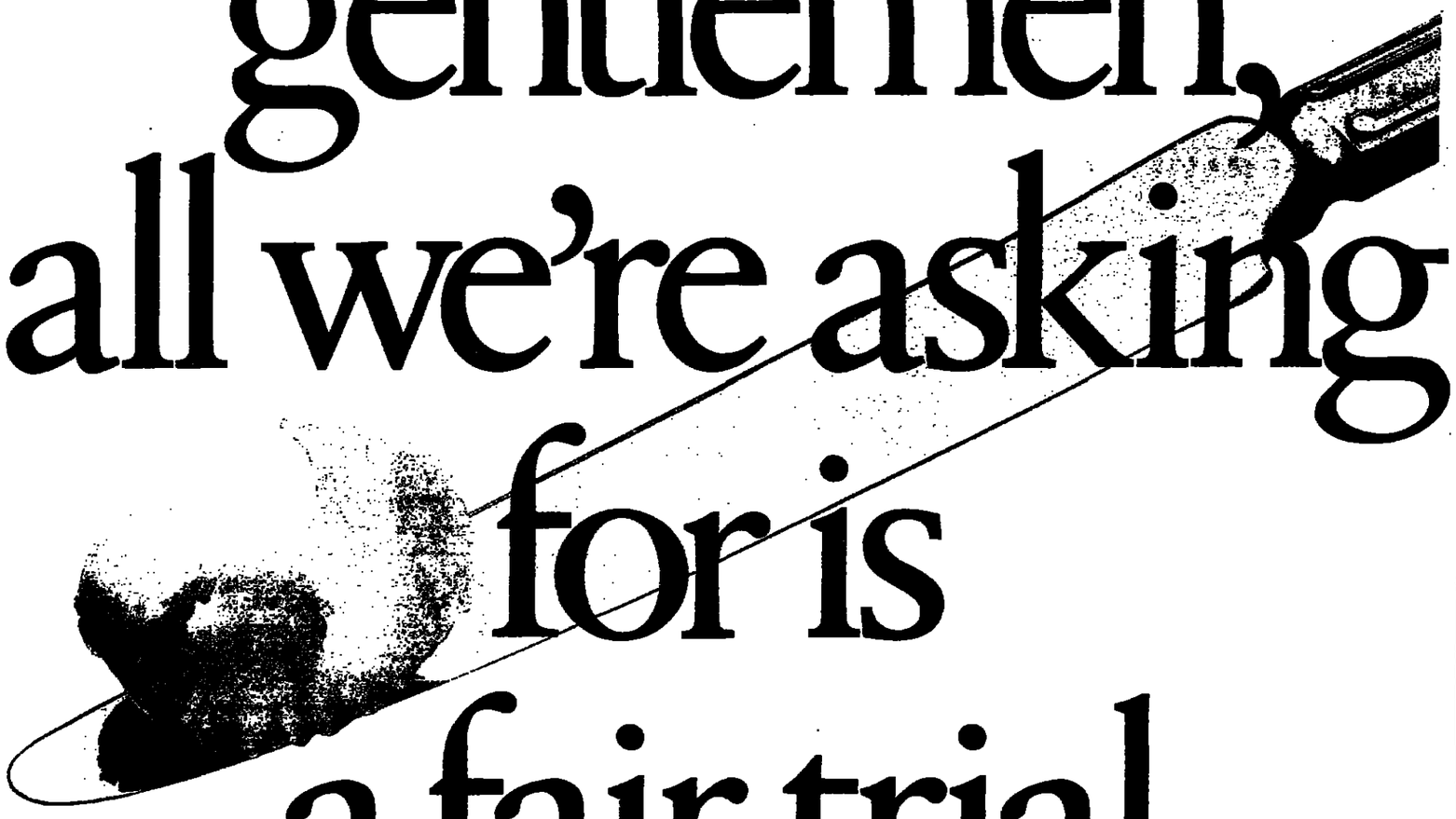
Cost cutter

Athens: Buyers will start bidding at $15 million (£8.3 million) when the late Aristotle Onassis's yacht is sold next January. The 300-ft vessel, willed to the state by Onassis, is being sold because Greece cannot afford annual maintenance costs of $1 million. *(Reuter)*

Cut above

Peking: A poll of Shanghai hospitals showed that more than half of births were by Caesarean section compared with 10 per cent in 1980. Mothers opt for the knife because anaesthetic makes it painless and they feel it produces more intelligent children, an official newspaper said. (Reuter)

Ladies and gentlemen, all we're asking for is a fair trial.



As you may have heard, some people (including a certain food lobby) have taken exception to our name. Silly isn't it? Because all we're saying is what we're not.

On the other hand, you might find the taste of our new spread rings a few bells. You see, it's made with buttermilk. It has a fresh, butter-like taste.

It's also high in polyunsaturates, low in saturates and contains virtually no cholesterol.

Could it be our rivals are frightened of a little healthy competition?

Well, you can judge that for yourself. Just look for our special trial pack in the shops.

Take it home, spread it on and take a bite.

Then ask yourself. Have we really given ourselves a bad name?



NEWS PEOPLE

Walesa cleans up

Lech Walesa, the Polish president and a crossword addict, has won the equivalent of £2.80 in a newspaper crossword competition, the *Sztandar Mlodych* daily reported yesterday. It said that President Walesa's entry, written on presidential stationery, was picked at random from dozens of correct entries. "Our phone call to the president's chancery confirmed our discovery — Lech Walesa reads our paper and solves our crosswords," the left-leaning newspaper said.

□

Sir Peter Ustinov, a reknowned raconteur, found himself lost for words in Japan when he was asked at short notice to make a speech about refugees on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees. His hosts presented him with a strictly timed schedule but what worried him was that he doubted his ability to speak eloquenty about refugees for the required 45 minutes. When his time came, however, he performed with customary aplomb. "They were running 19 minutes behind time," Sir Peter said. "I put them back on schedule."

□

A bout of exhaustion that put **Gian-Carlo Menotti**, the musical impresario, in hospital has had only a minor effect on the 80-year-old's lifestyle. The composer, director and founder of twin arts festivals in Spoleto, Italy, and Charleston, South Carolina, said: "Now instead of two glasses of wine, I drink one, and I go to bed at 1 am instead of 2am. But I still have two festivals." He disclosed that the programme for next summer's festival in Italy would include both Wagner's opera *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg* and Donizetti's *Il Duca D'Alba*. The Donizetti opera also will be performed in Charleston.

□

Independent television's plans to reshow the 90-minute *Sweeney* original — called *Regan* — have infuriated **John Thaw**, the actor. "It was made more than 17 years ago," he said. "They ought to be putting out a new show, not this repeat that will just cost them a few hundred pounds. It was made as an Armchair Cinema film in 1974 and the actors will get just a tiny percentage of what they were paid then."

□

Kriss Akabusi, the athlete of the year, says he takes his responsibility as a black role model seriously. "I feel a responsibility to portray everything good as a black athlete. I want to show that black people can excel in sport but that they are also articulate and they have more to offer society than just being sports people or cannon fodder. Akabusi is off to America next month to train for the Olympics.

□

A group of leading chefs were told by **Jack Lang**, the French culture minister, that they had to fight together to preserve the gastronomic traditions of the old world and to resist the vulgarisation of taste. He was speaking to more than 3,000 chefs in Paris at a meeting of Euro-Toques which tries to protect culinary quality.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Crowned head: A "lost" Canova bust of Napoleon, one of the best known champions of a united Europe, is guided into the Accademia Italiana in London for an exhibition next month. The bust is Crowther of Syon Lodge's entry for the Leonardo award for the most important Italian artwork discovered in 1991.

The road to Maastricht

EC leaders find compromises

As Europe's leaders meet to solve their differences before the Maastricht summit, Brussels has agreed some changes, **George Brock** writes

AS THE Maastricht summit deadline loomed, Europe's statesmen played complicated word games yesterday to fashion last-minute compromises for the treaty on political and monetary union.

While John Major met Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, European Community governments struggled to interpret conflicting signals from the German government, variously interpreted as putting the squeeze on a reluctant British government, or as helpful attempts to find compromises for the summit. The European commission, normally a source of robustly federalist ideas, agreed a declaration on the forthcoming treaty which toned down the bitter criticisms of the draft proposals made recently by Jacques Delors, its president.

M Delors has accused the treaty's authors of watering down the original ambitions for the treaty and betraying the ideals of European unification. But yesterday's statement, agreed by all 17 commissioners including its two British members, avoided any clear definition of the EC's ultimate goal. Sir Leon Brittan, senior British commissioner, insisted that the passage on federal aims should be diluted. As finally agreed, the statement distinguishes between national and EC powers and then descends into barely comprehensible language to describe the EC's federal "perspective".

The commission declaration also suggests that the EC should progressively become a "political community" — a reference which may be intended as a hint that this phrase should replace the "federal goal" in the treaty, which the British government finds unacceptable. The commissioners, also on Sir Leon's advice, struck out M Delors' assertion that the monetary union treaty should contain an escape clause which could only be used by Britain. The final version refers only to the "risks" of a general opt-out clause which could be used by any country which did not want to join a single currency.

The German government is spending this week considering the possible compromises which could resolve the outstanding problems in the treaty. Ministers and officials are thinking out loud to test the popularity of their ideas.

Talk of timetabled "review clauses" in the treaty is not new. Review clauses already appear in the draft and are not opposed in principle by the British government. The argument in the treaty conference is over whether the treaty should specify when the review takes place and whether the text should hint at the developments to be expected from the revision. Several federalist governments have, for the past few months, been indicating that if the Maastricht treaty fell below their expectations, they would argue for clauses which set up a "conveyor belt" movement towards federal union.

Margaret Thatcher was shrewd to highlight the phrases "conveyor belt" and "slippery slope". The last arguments over the treaty now turn on whether governments will be allowed the power to turn off the conveyor belt. Federalist governments which are sad that the momentum towards federalism has slackened would like to leave Maastricht comforted by the thought that the conveyor belt is still moving, albeit slowly.

Herr Kohl is groping for formulas which will appeal to federalists and allow Mr Major to leave Maastricht claiming he has ensured that Britain cannot be carried off on the conveyor belt. Bonn's preferred option seems to be a timetable of automatic changes which would move immigration and foreign policy within the community in 1996 without further reviews by governments. This version of conveyor belt federalism was discussed by the six EC Christian Democrat leaders when they met near here on Tuesday night. The British government would be very unlikely to support any such binding or automatic commitments.

While German officials are emphasising their belief in timetables which would guarantee further federal developments later in the decade, they also have fallback positions. The treaty's review clauses could be "loaded" to pre-empt the results of a review, hinting that the conclusions would shift the community in a federal direction. Lastly, Britain could be offered "derogations" which would exempt it from treaty obligations it cannot accept.

The EC commission has been criticised by the community's financial watchdog for giving Polish farmers food and pesticides they didn't need — and then allowing the farmers to sell the aid they had been given to customers in the EC. The annual report of the EC's Court of Auditors says that the EC's aid policies for Eastern Europe, hastily drawn up after the collapse of the communist regimes in 1989, suffered from having no "single consistent framework". The severest censure is reserved for gifts given to Polish farmers in 1989 and 1990. Auditors found that large quantities of three Western pesticides were still stored unused at the end of 1990: stocks amounted to 20 per cent of the chemicals bought with a grant worth £30 million. They were unable to discover where the pesticides which had been delivered had gone and could not ascertain if the EC commission had checked whether the farmers received the goods.



Major: trying to find lasting solutions

Between August 1989 and May 1990, the EC delivered £100 million of food to Poland, without having checked whether Poland needed such quantities. As 300,000 tons of the EC's wheat mountain arrived in Poland in the spring of 1990, Polish farmers panicked, thinking that the gift from the West would glut the market.

They brought out of store all the hoarded wheat which they had earlier held back. If part of the harvest had not been hoarded in the first place, there would have been no "grain shortage" to attract the EC's sympathy.

Maastricht deal, page 1
Parliament, page 7
Lamont hopeful, page 23

Allies through the looking glass

BY WILLIAM WARD

WHATEVER the substance of the discussions between Mr Major and Signor Andreotti, his Italian counterpart, yesterday, the tone had to be substantially different from a bilateral meeting with M Mitterand or Herr Kohl. The British know more or less where they stand with the Germans and the French, but with the Italians they never knows quite what to expect.

Italy has a curious resemblance to Britain — a Lewis Carroll sort of paradox, making Italy a sort of Great Britain through the looking glass. Both countries feel excluded from the cosy Franco-German axis. Their highest concentrations of wealth in the area nearest to France and Germany, with a corresponding problem of economic isolation towards the geographical extremities. Unlike Britain, however, Italy has real local government, with parliaments or regional assemblies in each region.

Apart from broadly similar levels of unemployment and inflation, Britain's virtues are Italian vices, and vice versa. Their public debt is the highest in Europe, with public spending and labour costs continuing to rise. Iri, the umbrella state holding group presides over the largest nationalized empire in Western Europe, and has almost no intention of privatizing anything. But the effects of their recession have been minimal, with most private companies in good shape, and with a continued consumer spending boom.

The two countries, however, have conflicting ideas about their place in the EC. What British critics condemn as "time-wasting Euro-babble", the Italians applaud as genuine political idealism. Instead of waging war over directives before grudgingly, but punctiliously, applying them all, the Italians say yes to everything, and then blithely ignore them.

Britain stands much to gain by cementing a London-Rome axis.

Council takes on Azeris

Moscow: The Soviet State Council, the country's highest decision-making body, urged Azerbaijan to restore the autonomous status of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, which was revoked on Tuesday (Bruce Clark writes).

After an emergency meeting lasting several hours, the council called on the Azerbaijan and Armenian parliaments to "cancel all acts which change the judicial status of Nagorno-Karabakh, a status fixed by the Soviet constitution, and to re-establish constitutional order on the region's territory." President Gorbachev has given a warning that the region is "on the brink of real war".

President Mutalibov yesterday came under intense pressure at home and abroad to restrain the clamour in his Muslim republic for military action against Armenia. The Azeri leader was summoned by President Gorbachev for talks with Armenia's President Ter-Petrossian and other republican leaders.

Arms monitored

Moscow: Vadim Bakatin, chairman of the Soviet KGB, now redesignated the inter-republic committee on security, said fears about the safety of the country's nuclear weapons had prompted Soviet leaders to set up special counter-espionage units in army divisions where nuclear weapons were held.

Italy wields axe

Rome: Italian military chiefs plan to cut the armed forces by a quarter — removing 90,000 men — to create a hard core of professionals to fit in with new Nato strategy involving rapid-reaction forces. *(Reuter)*

Leader attacked

Moscow: A man wielding a knife attacked Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian leader, during a presidential election campaign tour in the city of Kharkov. A bodyguard saved Mr Kravchuk from injury. *(Reuter)*

Dwarfing dignity

Paris: Dwarf-throwing, an off-beat sport that originated in Australia and has recently caught on in France, has been banned by the interior ministry as an "unacceptable attack on human dignity". *(Reuter)*

Bread and butter woes outweigh Ukraine poll

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN DONETSK

IN THE Donbass, the russified mining and industrial heartland of the Ukraine where only Lenin's statues outnumber the coal slag heaps, election fever has scarcely taken grip ahead of Sunday's presidential poll and referendum on secession.

The region, home to five million of the Ukraine's 52 million citizens, is expected to overwhelmingly back independence, like in most of the other regions of the Soviet Union's second-most populous and powerful republic. Yet the mood here is very different from that of the western Ukraine, which will also vote for independence with a huge majority.

Workers in the 250 coal mines and scores of other industrial enterprises located in the Donbass can muster little interest either in the cause of sovereignty, about whose exact meaning many seem confused, or in the presidential ballot. "The workers are apathetic, they can't see the point of these elections because they seem to be far from our difficulties. I personally won't be voting," Vladimir Sarabash, an ethnic Russian who is director of the Butovka mine near Spartak village, said.

In its main pit tunnel yesterday, a group of workers had more practical things than politics on their minds. They were trying to set upright two coal trucks which had derailed and cracked part of a wall. One of them, Valentin Krivych, aged 50, said he thought the Ukraine was unprepared for elections. "We have had too little democracy in our country; people have not needed to understand the system."

Edvard Lugova, who has toiled at the pit for 15 of his 47 years, said: "People don't trust politicians any more. There has been a lot of talk but no action." He was doubtful whether any leader could solve the Ukraine's problems of food supply. "Sometimes sausage appears in the shops but it is impossible to find butter. Bread is the only thing that is available without difficulty," he said.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Festivities mask a heart of darkness in Big Apple

The Japanese-owned Christmas tree is up in Rockefeller Plaza and the shopkeepers are wishing customers "Happy holidays", but this year it will take more than the festive lights on Fifth Avenue to lighten the gloom of New York city.

Wall Street is staggering, unemployment is soaring, the housing market has collapsed and the subway and bus fares are about to rise by 22 per cent. On the eve of today's Thanksgiving, even the light relief in the Big Apple comes with a macabre twist.

The Addams Family, a film based on the ghoulish graveyard humour of the late cartoonist Charles Addams and starring Anjelica Huston, this week drew the biggest audiences of any new film in the city's history. In the same vein of dark comedy, citizens of Brooklyn are being offered a novel way of raising funds for their Christmas shopping. All they have to do is hand in a firearm to the local police station and they receive between $25 and $75 (£14-£42) in cash. Only one question is asked: "Is is loaded?"

The amnesty is a desperate measure to remove at least some illegal firearms from the streets. On the first day, Monday, 48 guns were turned in, several by law-abiding citizens whose children had brought them home.

Brooklyn was the scene of the worst school shooting for years on Monday. A squabble broke out among 16-year-olds outside a classroom at the Thomas Jefferson High School. The 14-year-old brother of one



youth drew his 9mm automatic and sprayed the classroom, killing one boy and critically wounding the computer teacher. The young gunman has been charged with murder and the press has been denouncing the school for failing to install metal detectors at the entrance. Carol Beck, the school principal, won an "American Hero" award last year for inspiring pupils to eschew the ways of violence.

This week the women who shepherd children across the street at school crossings were issued with bullet-proof vests. The measure was hardly an overreaction, given that the last school killing was only three days before the Brooklyn incident, 40 children have been shot dead this year and 82 have been wounded, many of them by stray gunfire in and around their homes. A new craze among teenage thugs has appeared over the past few weeks to help police in their enquiries.

Young robbers have taken to video-taping their exploits. Three were arrested on Monday thanks to a tape which showed them beating a subway passenger, a museum director, close to death with a hammer. They are pleading not guilty.

Public outrage over the school shootings has been muted by their routine nature. Parents have been waxing more indignant this week over the launching of a new programme in which condoms are being handed out in classrooms free of charge to any pupils who ask for them.

He has big problems.
Are they helping?



Course not.

JOHN THAW AS STANLEY DUKE IN
Stanley and the Women

Based on the novel by Kingsley Amis. Screenplay by Nigel Kneale.
Starring Geraldine Jones, Sheila Gish, Penny Downie, Sian Thomas, Michael Aldridge, David Lyon, Alun Armstrong, Samuel West, Donald Churchill with Michael Elphick as Bert Hutchinson.
Executive Producer Ted Childs. Produced by Chris Burt. Directed by David Tucker.

TONIGHT ON ITV

CENTRAL

Middle East peace hits hurdle

Israel unveils new terms for talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

ISRAEL'S rightwing leadership yesterday threatened to derail next week's scheduled Middle East peace talks when it demanded a five-day postponement and listed other conditions for attending the negotiations.

The surprise decision, approved during the weekly meeting of Israel's 14-man inner cabinet, defied announcements made hours earlier by senior American State Department officials who insisted that the proposed December 4 resumption of Arab-Israeli dialogue in Washington was not negotiable. The Israeli decision was seen as an attempt to register its anger over the handling of the Washington talks, and to placate hardline members of the government who fear that Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, may be forced to make concessions in Washington.

Ehud Gol, Mr Shamir's spokesman, said last night that Israel wanted the five-day delay in order to finalise details for the talks. But he added that the Israeli negotiating teams would only be willing to attend one or two sessions in the American capital with the Syrian, Lebanese and joint Palestinian-Jordanian negotiators.

"Israel is interested in the continuation of the peace process as soon as possible in direct negotiations between the parties," Mr Gol said. But he insisted that Israel believed that so long as the talks were held in Washington, the Arab states would attempt to manipulate the American hosts and audience.

"Out of respect to the US, Israel is willing to conduct one or two meetings in Washington in order that afterwards negotiations will be held in the region or its proximity," he said. Israel also wants the negotiations to be conducted in stages with a break of four or five days between one meeting and the next, with the first session to take place on December 9.

The decision is likely to be received with dismay in Washington, where Margaret Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, had insisted that it would not accept any conditions from the parties and that American diplomats in the Middle East had been instructed to send the message: "Here is the proposal — Washington DC, December 4. Let us know."

Israel's leftwing opposition and members of the Palestinian negotiating team reacted angrily to the Shamir government's decision. Shimon Peres, the Labour party leader, described it as "unnecessary and harmful" and added that if his party was in power the peace process would be well under way. In Amman Haider Abdel Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation at the initial Madrid peace conference, said: "This is frustrating. Really I think they are just stalling."

Arab states are seeing the Israeli snub to the United States as an unprecedented split between them which offers an opportunity that must be exploited. Although there are divisons among the Arabs, Egypt and Saudi Arabia which are devising much of the strategy are pushing for maximum support for the American position in order to gain diplomatic advantage from what one senior Arab diplomat yesterday described as, "the first White House administration for many years not completely over-balanced to Israel".

There has been resistance from Syria which by last night had also not given the unconditional acceptance to the Washington invitation, provided earlier by Jordan and Lebanon. The Palestinians were also holding out for concessions on the issue of visas for members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

But senior Egyptian officials have been attempting to press both Syria and the PLO to drop their procedural wrangles and to concentrate on permitting Washington the maximum leeway to put pressure on Israel.

Israel's reservations have also done little to placate one exasperated American Jewish leader, who even before the Israeli announcement told the *Jerusalem Post*: "They tell us that Israel has said for 43 years that it would travel to the moon for direct negotiations. And they point out that Washington is not the moon."

● **Washington:** Mr Shamir held more than 50 secret meetings with prominent Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, some of them in his own home, according to a newly revised book, *Arafat: In the Eyes of the Beholder. (Reuter)*

Leading article, page 17

Lot's wife faces final destruction

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

A HUGE column of stone, marking the spot where, according to tradition, Lot's luckless wife was transformed into a pillar of salt, is crumbling and poses a threat to tourists.

The nature conservation authority of Israel said yesterday that the column south of the Dead Sea, which for centuries stood vigil over the ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah, has begun shifting. The towering stone structure now poses a threat to tourists using the main highway to Eilat just below it and may have to be blown up.

"She has changed her form. She has changed her angle. She is slowly, slowly begining to lean to the east," Shmulik Shapira, a spokesman for the conservation authority, said. The organisation had recently closed a nearby park after a spate of rock slides which earlier this month briefly trapped a group of hikers exploring a cave close by.

"I do not know what will be done with Lot's wife, but one of the ideas is to blow her up in order to prevent a disaster," Mr Shapira said. "We are speaking about hundreds or thousands or possibly tens of thousands of tons of rock."

In the Book of Genesis, Lot, the nephew of the prophet Abraham, his wife and their two daughters are instructed to flee their home in Sodom before its destruction and that off the equally wicked twin town of Gomorrah. According to the scriptures, two angels gave them a warning: "Flee for your lives: do not look back and do not stop anywhere in the plain. Flee to the hills or you will be swept away."

Genesis continues: "And then the Lord rained down fire and brimstone from the skies on Sodom and Gomorrah. He overthrew those cities and destroyed all the plain, with everyone living there and everything growing in the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she turned into a pillar of salt."

Lot's fortunes sink after the tragic loss of his wife, and his two daughters subsequently take advantage of their mother's absence to make him drunk and then to seduce him.

So far geologists have not been able to establish what is causing the unusual movement in the valley, the lowest spot on Earth, but they warn that, unless it can be stopped, the future of Lot's wife looks bleak.

Mr Shapira said: "Let us say there is a problem at Sodom mountain, someone is going to have to propose how to solve it from a safety point of view, and we will also have to think how to avoid harming the old lady, Lot's wife."



Saved from the sea: a Haitian is helped on board a US Coast Guard cutter after several dozen refugees were rescued from an overloaded yacht sinking in the stormy Windward Passage between Haiti and Cuba. America, which has decided not to admit more Haitian refugees, is setting up a camp at its naval base in Guantánamo Bay in eastern Cuba to house the 3,000 Haitians recently picked up at sea by the Coast Guard. More than 300 Haitians in six boats were reported to have come ashore on Cuba's eastern coast in the last week. *(Reuter)*

Turkish fears revived

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

A LETTER of congratulations sent by John Major to the newly elected Turkish prime minister, Suleyman Demirel, has inadvertently reopened the debate on whether Turkey will renew the mandate of allied forces deployed in the rescue operation for the northern Iraqi Kurds.

While in opposition Mr Demirel and his coalition partners, the Social Democratic Populist party, were critical of the way allied forces were invited into the sensitive southeast region of Turkey.

Mr Major's brief note mentions the two countries' "joint efforts to bring relief to the peoples of northern Iraq" as well as the desire to prevent a repetition of the exodus last spring when hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Kurds fled to the Turkish border. Britain and America are privately pressing for Turkey to extend for a third time the lifespan of Operation Provide Comfort.

Turkish foreign ministry officials are equally determined to avoid the embarrassing return of refugees to Turkish soil. Their hope, if the Iraqi Kurds' position did deteriorate, is that the allies would re-create the boundaries of a "safe haven" on the Iraqi side of the border in advance. With the advent of winter, the Kurds would in any case find it more difficult to pass through the mountainous border than they did last time.

Hikmet Etin, the new Turkish foreign minister, who is of Kurdish origin, is expected to bow to pressure to accept the renewal of Operation Provide Comfort when it expires on December 28, particularly as Iraq appears set to renew its letter of agreement under which United Nations workers and guards operate on its soil. At the moment, the few foreign troops still active in the operation, most of them involved in aerial reconnaissance, are based far away from the Iraqi border at the Incirlik air base near Adana.

Mr Etin, however, is a member of the minority Social Democratic partner in the coalition, many of whose leading members suggest that the allied presence is an infringement of Turkish sovereignty and a revival of post-first world war plans to create an independent Kurdistan.

Soccer fans form militia

Red Star Belgrade football supporters have taken up arms to join the Serb-led federal army in skirmishes across the Croatian front line, **Bill Frost** writes

RED Star Belgrade football club supporters laid down their rattles, exchanged terrace chants for patriotic slogans, and picked up weapons early yesterday morning as they travelled to join Serb-led federal army forces on the battlefront in eastern Croatia.

In another bizarre twist to the civil war, dozens of recruits mustered at a bar close to the football club's ground in central Belgrade where they boarded a convoy of jeeps and muddy cars bound for the besieged Croatian city of Osijek. The unofficial supporters club, known as Delije, has sent fighters to the front line in the past. Zeljko "Arkan" Raznjatovic, the leader of the volunteers, has said that during previous sorties, his militia was "not interested in taking Croat prisoners". Both sides have accused each other of atrocities against civilians.

Mr Raznjatovic, chairman of the unofficial supporters' club, commands fierce loyalty. His men hung on every word as a final briefing was given before the departure for Osijek. The Red Star irregulars will join private militias in action on the front line. Publicly, commanders with the federal army discourage such unofficial formations. However, the fighters seem to pass through army checkpoints with ease.

In eastern Croatia, machinegun fire was exchanged across the Drava river at Bilje, 100 yards from Osijek. Territorial forces with the federal army raked the treeline on the Croat-held bank with bullets after a rocket attack. Sporadic fire was returned.

A young Serb reservist with red-rimmed eyes and a two-week beard pointed at the remains of the missile: "German-made. All Croatian weapons come from Germany. One fascist country helps another. It is just like the last war."

The Serb territorials are jumpy and battle-weary. Months of combat have turned friendly farm boys into frightened and frightening veterans.

Cocked weapons are waved around casually, with frequent bursts of firing into the air. Visitors to the front line can expect to be given a none-too-gentle prod with the barrel of a loaded Kalashnikov. Perhaps for effect, some fighters will saunter from their sandbags or blockhouses, to stand exposed to snipers on the west bank of the Drava.

Stevan Malkovic, zone commander for the Drava front, said he had many heavy artillery pieces at his disposal. "I could take you to the centre of Osijek in two hours, having smashed the defences," he said, crushing a cigarette packet beneath his fist to emphasise the point. Mr Malkovic, who claimed to have killed 50 Croat soldiers, said the city was ready to fall, yet its defenders persisted in firing on his men. "They should stop now, otherwise we will have to go in before the United Nations troops come," he said.

On the road from Bilje to Dardo, just behind the front line, families were being moved into bullet-scarred houses by police. "They are Serbs who have been made refugees by Croats. Now they have Croat homes," said one officer.

In a sandbagged, breeze-block machinegun nest 150 yards from Croat positions, young Serbs oiled their weapons and scanned the west bank. "There is a good sniper in those trees there. Next time he fires, I will get him," said a 19-year-old who looked twice his age, as he stroked a grenade launcher.

Back on the road to Dardo, an old man lay handcuffed and spreadeagled on the bonnet of a police car. He was a Croat who had stayed on, a policeman said. "All this has become an autonomous region. We decide what happens. The Croats took homes and businesses from us, burnt us out and killed. Now we make the decisions," Mr Malkovic said.

Horses suffer in war

BY DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE war in Yugoslavia is threatening another great facet of Europe's cultural heritage, the Lippizaner horse. Already at least 120 Lippizaners have been destroyed, mainly during an air raid in the town of Lipik.

Having survived the perils of two world wars and rescue by General George Patton, the breed is again menaced, this time by the civil war. Apart from those already killed, another 350 horses are severely injured, without drugs or bandages, while others face starvation.

Already a secret mission has been staged to move some 20 rare Lippizaners to safety in Hungary. Now the British Lippizaner society is appealing for cash and support for a follow-up in which food, drugs and bandages would be shipped to a point on the Hungarian-Yugoslav border. Donations should be sent to the society, c/o Mrs Harley, Starrock Stud, Underhill Farm, Ludwell, near Shaftesbury, Dorset.


To protect the child's identity a model has been used.

This Christmas the NSPCC will be helping many frightened, desperate children who are the victims of neglect.

£25.00 can begin to protect a child from abuse.

If you can send us that sum, using the coupon below we know of plenty of children who, for the first time in their lives would like to say 'Thanks, Santa.'

For this lonely, neglected little boy Father Christmas exists. If you've got £25 to spare, it's you.

I WANT TO HELP A CHILD RIGHT NOW.
I enclose my Cheque/Postal Order for: ☐ £75 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £_____ I would like to donate by Access/Visa/American Express, expiry date_____
ACCOUNT NUMBER
Send your donation to: Christopher Brown: Ref 921578 NSPCC FREEPOST, London, EC1B 1QQ. Or ring 071-242 1626.
NAME. Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss_____
ADDRESS_____
_____
_____
POSTCODE_____
NSPCC EMERGENCY CHRISTMAS APPEAL
We never make our name and address available to commercial organisations, but from time to time we may benefit by allowing other charities to write to you. If you would prefer not to receive these communications, please tick this box. ☐
BARCLAYS Campaign supported by Barclays Bank plc

Life in the fast food lane threatens bars of Paris

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

In France, of all places, the worldwide virus of fast food — the hamburger, the pizza and the pasta — is beginning to threaten the existence of the neighbourhood bars known since time immemorial as *zincs*.

Noisy, crowded, smoky and convivial, full of big-bellied men studying racing form in *Paris-Turf* over a beer or something stronger, and women with small dogs chatting together, these corner establishments, almost always run by a family, have for years provided a cosy retreat from the outside world. Here the local gossip flows as banker and binman drink comfortably side by side.

A true Parisian *zinc*, like my favourite spot by La Muette Métro station in the 16th arrondissement, much favoured by off-duty taxi drivers, is the nearest thing the French have to a working men's club. Regulars drift in and out on the way to the bread shop or on the way back from the nearby street market, thankfully parking baguettes and beautifully wrapped slices of cheese or sausage on the shelf below the metal counter before ordering.

There was a time, back in the mid-Fifties, perhaps even later, when these places might have had an accordion player serenading customers with songs by Piaf and Aznavour. If the memory of grainy black and white films of the era serves, there would usually be a pair of star-crossed lovers at a table in the back, hands clasped as they murmured of the exquisite pain of a great passion. Alas, the corner cafes, from the centre of Paris to the deepest provincial town, are now under serious pressure from the late twentieth century, in the shape of bright and breezy fast-food joints where the ambience is unashamedly transatlantic. Over the past ten years, at least 30,000 *zincs* have closed down, sometimes leaving small villages without a single spot where locals can gather for a gossip about their crops or the useless local soccer team.

According to Robert Henry, head of the *Limonade* (small bar owners) section of France's union for cafes and restaurants, this sad trend is virtually irreversible, reflecting, above all, the flight from city centres to safer and more attractive suburbs. The impact of severe economic difficulties that has hit coal mining, textiles and the steel industry in the industrial heart of the country has also contributed to the decline of the traditional *zinc*.

Yet the fast-food fad appears to be public enemy number one; above all, the spread of town and city centre operations serving instant burgers, sausages, pizzas, sandwiches, and more besides. "Le McDo is killing us," complained one corner cafe owner in the magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur*. A McDonald's down the street, providing meals at a price the family operation simply cannot match, can slash their weekly takings by almost a third.

In self-defence, more and more *zincs* are displaying signs announcing that sandwiches and other fast-foods purchased elsewhere cannot be consumed at their tables: "we can make them for you here". But for every faithful client lingering over a *demi* of "33" beer, they are losing many more to the brassy charms of bright lights and non-stop pop music.

Certain grand establishments in Paris are, of course, immune to transient fashions, especially those which originate in America. At the Left Bank's Café Flore, haunt of Jean-Paul Sartre and his flock of self-proclaimed intellectuals, the august patron, M Boubal, professes to be unworried. On the other hand, as he readily recalled in the same magazine, the Sartre set was lousy for business, lingering for hours on end over a single drink — "my worst clients," he said.



Cambodian peace hope threatened

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE hysterical crowds of Cambodians who tried to lynch Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, yesterday may well have done more than satisfy their lust for vengeance against the Khmer Rouge.

They, and the government which allowed its troops to stand aside, may have jeopardised a successful end to almost 30 years of insurgency, civil war and starvation that have cost the lives of up to a million people and turned Cambodia into a wasteland. By rejecting a Khmer Rouge presence, in preparation for elections, they may drive them back to the battlefield from which they had been so recently seduced.

As Prince Sihanouk said, the Khmer Rouge need to be "caressed or they turn nasty". He has now requested that the planned meeting of the coalition partners be held in Bangkok instead of Phnom Penh next week, but the outlook is uncertain. In jeopardy is the UN's most complex and expensive peacekeeping operation yet, estimated at $1 billion (£550 million), and proof of the UN's ability to carry out its new post-Gulf war role.

Central to Chinese agreement on the future government of Cambodia and its all-important willingness to stop supplying the Khmer Rouge with arms, was Khmer Rouge participation in the coalition government, a Khmer Rouge presence on the Supreme National Council and participation elections to be held in 1993.

That concept is now in tatters. Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, the Supreme National Council representatives, plus their staff, are now licking their wounds in Bangkok.

Anyone who has visited the national museum to Khmer Rouge horrors in the former lycée at Tuol Sleng with its endless photographs of severed heads and emaciated bodies, or visited the foaming acid pits where hapless victims were dispatched, cannot have been surprised. Yesterday's attack merely served to illustrate that the Cambodian peace pact signed in Paris in October did little more than paper over the cracks in Cambodian society. It is as if Geobbels were being invited to join a coalition government in Berlin.

Cambodia attack, page 1



Sleeping on the job: members of the South Korean opposition snatch a nap during a delay in a parliamentary session yesterday

Japanese MPs at war over peacekeeping bill

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

UGLY scenes erupted yesterday in Japan's normally polite parliament when the ruling Liberal Democratic Party pushed through a passage of the controversial peace-keeping operations bill in a lower house committee. The move brings the nation one step closer to participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations and sending members of its armed forces overseas for the first time since the second world war.

The opposition socialist and Communist parties are opposed to the bill on the grounds that it violates Japan's pacifist constitution. Already abandoned twice in the last year due to fiery opposition in the Diet, opposition members last night parted company with their dignity and launched themselves at the committee chairman, Yoshiro Hayashi, to prevent him from announcing the vote or its passage.

LDP members, clearly reluctant to be left out of the action, threw themselves into the fray, scuffling to reach microphones. White-gloved policemen quickly surrounded the chairman, grabbed him round the waist and hoisted him to safety, where he hastily announced passage of the bill to bellowing roars from everyone. "This forced vote is unspeakable. It is a shameful action and one that is an embarassment for Japan in the eyes of the world," spluttered Sadao Yamahada, secretary-general of the opposition Democratic Socialist party. Koichi Kato, the LDP chief cabinet secretary, said: "It is a shame some members of the committee reacted as they did. Everyone has worked hard to get the bill approved."

Yesterday's Diet mayhem, was mild in comparison with Diet skirmishes of the past. In 1960, when the LDP had trouble passing the United States-Japan security pact legislation, it arranged for 500 policemen to enter the Diet building and forcibly eject all opposition politicians. The bill was passed, but with 90 casualties.

More excitement is expected as the bill will be put to the vote again today at the plenary session of the lower House.

Lagos holds census

FROM AFP IN LAGOS

PRESIDENT Babangida and Augustus Aikhomu, his deputy, were the first Nigerians to be counted here yesterday on the first day of a three-day national census.

The president, his wife, and two of their four children were counted at their official residence by Alhaji Shehu Musa, the chairman of the National Population Commission, who also counted members of Mr Aikhomu's family. Mr Aikhomu was optimistic that the exercise would be a success.

This is the fourth national head-count in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, since it gained independence from Britain in 1960. Of the other exercises held in 1962, 1963 and 1973, only that of 1963 was accepted, although its result was contested up to the Supreme Court. The other two were cancelled because of malpractice.

The present census is a cardinal step in General Babangida's transition programme returning the country to civilian rule. The military is due to hand power to civilians next year.

Moi calls reform meeting

Nairobi — President Moi has called a meeting of Kenya's ruling party for next Monday to discuss the future of the country amid domestic and international pressure to end the one-party system which has prevailed for two decades (Sam Kiley writes).

The initiative comes after Western governments, meeting in Paris to review aid levels, said that Kenya's application for about $1 billion (£556 million) would be deferred for six months pending progress on political and economic reforms.

The call for a meeting of the ruling Kenya Africa National Union also comes after the detention or dismissal on Tuesday of members of the government allegedly involved in the murder of Robert Ouko, the former foreign minister.

Togo army protest

Lomé: Soldiers who occupied Togo's radio HQ in protest at the parliament's decision to ban President Eyadema's Togolese People's Rally later left peacefully. The radio reported three dead and 41 injured in earlier fighting. *(AFP)*

Marcos charges

Manila: The Philippines government has charged Imelda Marcos, the former first lady, with stealing scholarship money intended for poor children and using it to finance her business ventures. *(Reuter)*

Scrolls on view

Kansas City: Emanuel Tov, editor in chief of the scrolls project, which controls access to the Dead Sea Scrolls, says the research group has lifted its last restriction for scholars who want to view the 2,000-year-old writings. *(AP)*

Timor round-up

Many arrests were made in East Timor as a government commission began its enquiry into the killing of mourners at a funeral in Dili this month.

Black allies fall out

FROM REUTER IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's radical Pan-Africanist Congress yesterday accused the African National Congress of undermining their new alliance by making a secret power-sharing deal with the white government.

The Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) accused the ANC of "deceit and duplicity" just two days before the two groups' first joint meeting with President de Klerk to prepare for talks on political reform.

The PAC said Nelson Mandela's group had ditched key elements of a plan for black majority rule agreed last month at the formation of a "Patriotic Front" aimed at boosting pressure for an end to 40 years of race segregation. "The ANC is without question guilty of deceit and duplicity," Benny Alexander, the PAC general secretary, said. His statement added that ANC leaders "are prepared to rule this country in alliance with the (ruling white) National party by decree for many years to come."

ANC and government spokesmen declined to make immediate comment.

Diplomat's affair sparks spy scare

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE discreet world of South African diplomacy has been shaken by a sex and spy scandal, involving an adulterous envoy, a jealous Arab lover, and photographs of their liaison.

The affair came to light when the national intelligence service became suspicious of a relationship two years ago between an Arab diplomat and Lidia Bryant, a third secretary in the office of the South African ambassador to the United Nations in New York. The attractive 32-year-old university graduate had been regarded as a capable diplomat.

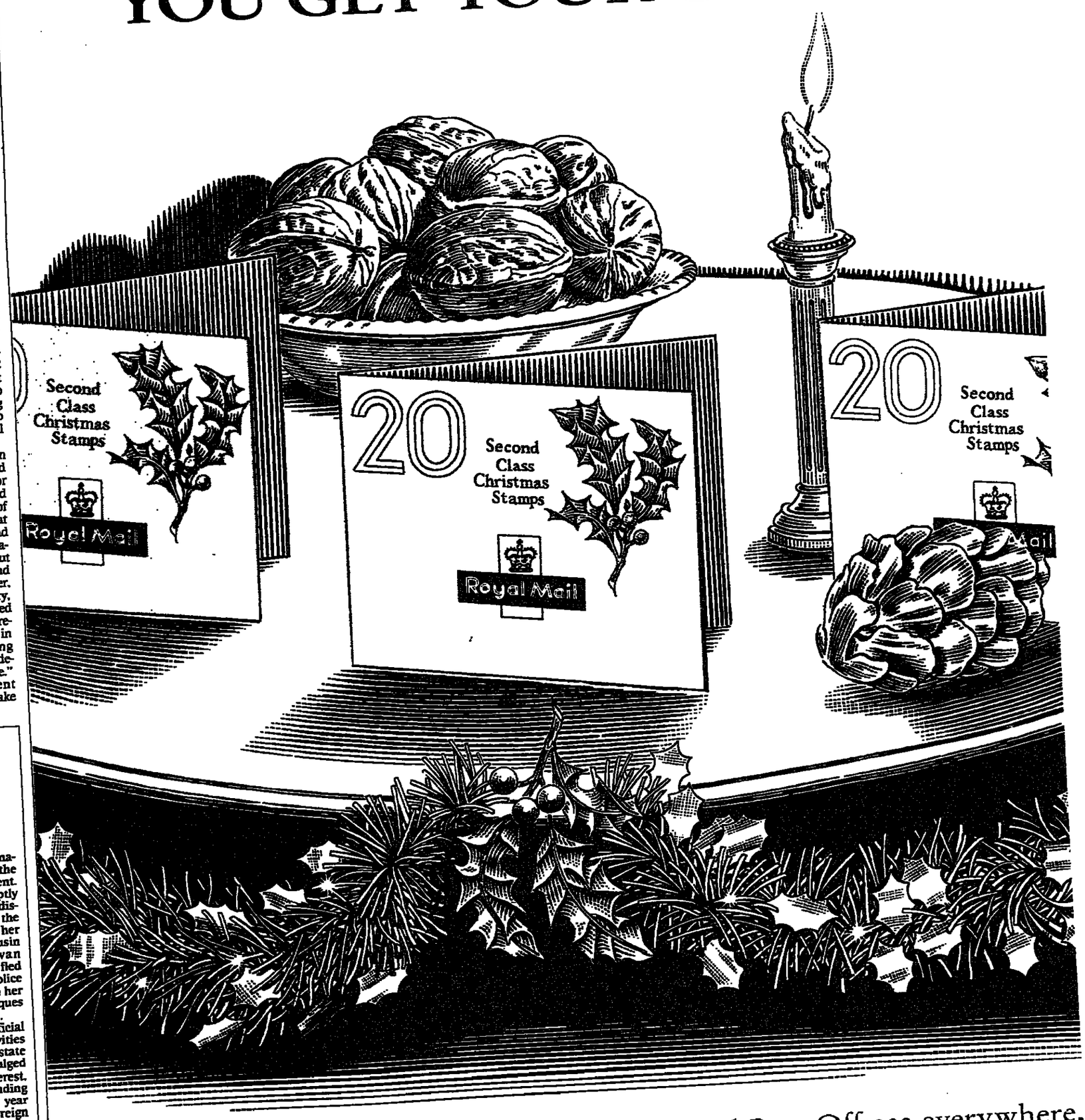
Mrs Bryant, whose husband at the time was vice-consul in New York, was recalled to Pretoria last year for consultations, but after denying improprieties she was allowed to return to her post. Apparently oblivious to surveillance by the intelligence service, she then passed state secrets to her lover.

At some point her passion cooled, prompting her jilted lover to send photographs of a revealing nature to her superiors in the foreign affairs department. Mrs Bryant was promptly suspended, and then dismissed last month. In the interim she divorced her husband, married a cousin to become Mrs van Heerden, and has since fled South Africa where police are anxious to question her about fraudulent cheques to the value of £16,000.

A foreign affairs official said her amorous activities had not compromised state security. She had divulged nothing of real interest, other than an impending visit to Hungary last year by Pik Botha, the foreign minister, which marked a breakthrough in relations with Eastern Europe.

Referring to the photographs taken in Mrs Bryant's flat in New York, the official said: "This is a sex story rather than a spy story. The man fell deeply in love with her and this was his revenge." The identity and nationality of her erstwhile lover has not been disclosed.

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Under threat: short-toed eagle of Eastern Europe

Birds in the red

Nick Nuttall looks at the wildlife winners and losers under years of communism

An attempt to save one of the world's rarest birds, the aquatic warbler, has highlighted growing international interest in the bird-life of former communist countries.

Poland, the European states of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and Hungary are home to 17 threatened species, including the imperial eagle, the sociable plover and little bustard.

The bird populations of these countries also include 132 species or sub-species threatened throughout all or part of their European range. These include the short-toed eagle, three-toed woodpecker, the moustached warbler and the rufous bush robin.

The years of communism have been a mixed blessing for the bird world. Although lack of development has left some habitats almost untouched, some species have been hit hard by the use of old-fashioned pesticides, the drainage of marsh and wetland and the use of national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty for hunting and recreation rather than for conservation.

At the same time, restrictions imposed by some of the former regimes meant that their scientists had difficulty gathering information because they were denied access to international research and conferences.

Examples of "winners" and "losers" in the bird world of Eastern Europe are the white stork, which has a population of 30,000 in Poland, compared with just 600 pairs in the former West Germany, and the slender-billed curlew, which breeds in the Soviet Union, and is down in numbers to just a few hundred.

The attempt to save the aquatic warbler is being made by Polish ornithologists, with help from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the International Council for Bird Preservation in Britain. The aim is to gather accurate information on the numbers and habitat of the bird, a migratory visitor to Britain whose numbers have fallen sharply to 2,000 breeding pairs.

> Proposals have been drafted to cut pollution

The relative poverty of the people and economies in the east have meant that bird conservation has never become very popular. Nevertheless, some areas including mountains, coastlines and ancient woodlands are untouched by industrial development and pollution.

Interest in bird-life is gaining ground in the east, especially among the young, with help from the west.

The main challenge for western bird protection groups is to help their counterparts in Eastern Europe assess habitats and numbers while lending experience in winning the support of governments and supranational bodies, such as the European Commission. Some governments, particularly those that have applied for associate membership of the EC, seem keen to link economic and environmental reforms with western-style conservation measures.

Kevin Standring, senior conservation officer at the RSPB, said that in Poland, for example, proposals have been drafted to regulate tourism, reduce pollution, halt land-drainage schemes and back low-intensity agriculture in important bird areas.

The country possibly needing the most help is Albania, still one of Europe's most closed societies. Relatively little is known about the country's bird-life.

Nicola Crockford, an expert with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in Peterborough, and Bill Sutherland of the University of East Anglia, who visited Albania earlier this year in one of the first visits by a western ornithologist, found a disturbing situation.

For example, Albania's only professional ornithologist has retired from his post at the country's only university, in Tirana, and moved to Greece.

In addition, although laws protect birds such as the endangered pygmy cormorant and Dalmatian pelican from hunting and nest desecration, the reality can be very different.

Czechoslovak scientists who visited 32 pelican nests in the important Karavastas lagoon area found only seven eggs that had hatched. The others, Ms Crockford said, had either been pricked by local fishermen or were sterile, possibly because of pesticide poisoning.

Mr Standring said that despite growing popular support for conservation, experts recognised that in many parts of Eastern Europe, balancing bird preservation with the livelihoods of poor rural communities is likely to be an uphill struggle.

UPDATE

Japan pays top TV price

THIS week a satellite started broadcasting high definition programmes to Japan for eight hours a day. However, as sets cost nearly £17,000 only 200 are believed to have been sold, and they were mostly to businesses such as hotels. Japan's HDTV programmers have about 500 hours of viewing stored up, enough for about two months of broadcasting. Manufacturers hope to bring the price of a set down to about £4,000 within five years.

All spaced out

CASH-strapped Germany has become the backseat driver of the European space programme. At a meeting of the 13-nation European Space Agency last week Germany insisted that the Hermes space plane and the Columbus space laboratory should not be moved from the research into the development phase.

Island dump

THE Taiwanese and Chinese are to discuss a proposal to store nuclear waste on an island off China's south-eastern coast. Taiwanese companies need somewhere to dump their waste and China needs a new site to hold waste from its third nuclear power plant at Daya Bay, 30 miles from Hong Kong. The plant is scheduled to begin operations in mid-1993.

Smart pills

US researchers say they have developed a computer-controlled "smart pill" that can deliver drugs to a specific site in the gastrointestinal tract. The capsule contains a tiny radio transmitter which can communicate with a miniature computer worn by the patient in a belt or on a vest. When the capsule reaches the predetermined spot, the computer tells it to release the drug. Dr Jerome Schentag of the State University of New York said that while it was known the smart pill worked in prototype, tests needed to be done to see if this method of delivering medication helped patients. The researchers hope to begin tests on humans early next year.

Winning an undercover war

A British professor has invented a robot to make men's pants

Professor Mansoor Sarhadi has built a machine that can manufacture men's underpants in a fraction of the time it takes to make a pair by hand.

The robot promises to help Europe's beleaguered underwear manufacturers, threatened for the past 20 years by cheap imports from the Far East and the Third World.

Millions of pairs of underpants are made in Britain every year, but production methods have changed little in the past 50 years, and it can still take more than five minutes to produce each pair.

Most European manufacturers still have a largely manual production process, with up to six pieces of woven cotton passing through as many as 12 separate assembly stages. This makes labour the biggest part of the manufacturing cost.

A team of systems engineers at Brunel and Durham universities, led by Professor Sarhadi, has built a robot capable of manufacturing underpants virtually untouched by human hand.

Building a better pair of underpants has been Professor Sarhadi's brief for several years. The project has been funded by Jockey UK, the Science and Engineering Research Council and the EC. The project has already cost more than £1 million.

The money is well spent, according to Professor Sarhadi: "The only thing European manufacturers can do is improve their quality, which is precisely what our machine can guarantee."

Professor Sarhadi's machine incorporates an electronic system which can be fixed to a sewing machine to detect the quality of stitching. This is vital because some sewing machines are capable of 10,000 stitches a minute and one bad one means that the garment can fall apart.

Each machine will cost around £30,000, and should pay for itself within four years.

NIGEL BURNHAM



Worker of a manufacturing miracle: Mansoor Sarhadi

Court of Appeal — **Law Report** November 28 1991 — Court of Appeal

Plea for more appeal judges

Annual Review 1990-1991

If delays in the hearing of appeals were to be reduced, serious and urgent consideration should be given to widening the requirement for leave to appeal, and to increasing the number of Court of Appeal judges.

Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, so stated, sitting with Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Nolan in the Court of Appeal on November 27 and handing down the Court of Appeal Civil Division review of the legal year.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the Court of Appeal existed solely to correct demonstrable errors and to develop and clarify the law. It did not exist to give disappointed litigants a second chance. In performing its task it had three major objectives:

1 (Which was paramount) To maintain the highest possible standards in its work in terms of professional skill. While it was not perhaps for a judge of the court to express a view as to the extent that objective was achieved, his Lordship hoped and believed that it was.

2 To be ready to hear and determine any appeal or application somewhat sooner than the parties and their legal advisers were ready, thereby not only eliminating any court-induced delay, but also exerting pressure on litigants and the legal profession to speed up the processes of justice.

Realistically, the court's aim was to contain and, if possible, steadily reduce delays. Swimming strongly against the tide, marginal progress was being made – backwards. However, forward progress had been made in ensuring that the delays were experienced by those best able to endure them.

3 To reduce the burden of costs borne by litigants personally or as funded by legal aid while not unduly increasing the overhead costs borne by the state. Efforts had been continued to reduce the length of oral argument as time in court was very expensive for litigants.

Verbal economy was not something which came naturally to every advocate and its virtue, as well as the benefit which it conferred on all concerned in the litigation and in other matters waiting to be heard was unlikely to be appreciated by the client. The educational process was accordingly a little slow.

Delays and the critical equation

The critical equation was D1 + A - (B + C) - D2, where D1 was the number of appeals awaiting hearing at the beginning of the period, A was the number set down, B was the number disposed of after a hearing on the merits, C was the number disposed of without such a hearing and D2 was the number awaiting hearing at the end of the period.

If A - (B + C) was a positive figure the number of outstanding appeals and the delays would have increased. If negative, they would have reduced.

Unfortunately, the figures showed that whereas in the period 1982-1986 the movement in the figure for outstanding appeals awaiting hearing at the beginning of each year was slightly downwards, it was now upwards despite a considerable increase in the number of Lord Justices and the introduction of streamlined procedures.

Nor had it been appreciated until comparatively recently that applications, although not as time-consuming as appeals, were almost as numerous and formed a significant part of the court's workload.

Variety of appeals

The variety of appeals before the Court of Appeal was greater in nature and weight than any other court including the House of Lords.

There was no convenient method of quantifying the complexity of an appeal yet that was a crucial factor in the court's ability to dispose of appeals rapidly. As a matter of impression there was no doubt that the weight of the average appeal was increasing.

Some indication of that came from the increased proportion of appeals in which reserved judgments were given, 15.18 per cent in 1985-1986 as opposed to 31.19 per cent in 1990-1991. That tended to confirm his Lordship's view that the work was becoming more difficult.

Lead times (between institution of appeal and hearing)

Cases involving children were rightly regarded as being in a priority category, so were immigration cases and those involving claims for possession of dwelling houses, and some injunctions such as *Mareva*, restraints on carrying on a business activity and on the divulging of confidential information. But other cases might have features requiring urgency.

The court had refined the ways in which relative urgencies were assessed and given effect to it in terms of listing for hearing. It had recently become apparent that there was a risk that appeals in a non-priority category with no special features of urgency were being displaced for long periods by other more recently instituted urgent appeals.

That was unacceptable, and, borrowing from the expertise of the perishable foodstuffs industry, every appeal on being set down was now allotted ultimate "fix by" and "hear by" dates.

Emergency appeals

The court had during the year maintained its resolve that every appeal should be determined before, due to lapse of time, it had become academic. Urgent appeals tended first to see the light of day on a Friday afternoon, sometimes after court hours.

His Lordship described how the court responded to that problem by hearing appeals but emphasised that the emergency "call out" service was not available if the emergency was of the appellant's own making.

The picture which emerged was depressing and all concerned, the court, those practising in it and the Lord Chancellor and his department, had to consider what could be done to secure improvement. His Lordship referred to the judicial resources available: the 27 Lord Justice, and the heads of the divisions who did not sit full time in the Court of Appeal and the retired Lord Justices.

There were, however, factors reducing the full strength of the court: at one time five might be expected to sit in the criminal division or the Divisional Court, that was increased where the criminal division was hearing references from the Home Secretary.

Others were engaged heading enquiries of national importance and sickness was another factor. If lead times were not to continue to rise some small increase in the establishment of the Court of Appeal was clearly an option which had to be considered.

Leave to appeal

Another option was to improve the system for weeding out appeals which had no chance of succeeding and were instituted for tactical or emotional reasons.

It was possible to identify appeals as being hopeless without hearing them in full. That could be demonstrated by the comparison between the success rates of appeals where leave was required and those where it was not.

Judicial review was in a special position, leave being required before the proceedings might be begun in the lower court. But such leave was often given *ex parte* and in ignorance of the full facts. If they had been known at that stage leave might not have been granted. Some further consideration was therefore essential of whether the applicant had an arguable case.

Where it could be demonstrated that the success rate for a particular type of appeal was markedly lower than the average success rate for appeals generally, for example, appeals against the grant of possession orders in landlord and tenant cases, there was a particularly strong case for imposing a requirement of leave to appeal.

Parliament accepted the desirability of reconsidering and widening the categories of appeal in which leave was required when it enacted section 7 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. His Lordship hoped that that process could be begun at the earliest possible moment. That was a matter for the Lord Chancellor and the Rule Committee.

Settlements

Settlements were to be encouraged not only in the general interest but in those of the parties. The introduction of skeleton arguments had been one of the most successful reforms introduced in recent years, among other things in concentrating the minds of all concerned.

It had been hoped that the preparation of the skeletons would lead to counsel and solicitors re-appraising their clients' chances of success and that in some cases settlement might result at a time when some costs might be saved.

That did not appear to be happening and there were still door-of-the-court settlements and appeals which cried out for settlement being pursued because by the time of the hearing all the costs had been incurred and it was thought then to be too late.

It could not be too strongly emphasised that it was an important part of a lawyer's duty to seek to settle and to keep on seeking to do so. In many cases it was more in the client's interests than "winning".

It gave his Lordship no satisfaction to report on a year in which, despite the best endeavours of the judges and the legal and administrative court staff there had been no reduction in delays.

His Lordship had explained the nature of the problem and the limited extent to which the court had any power to take initiatives to improve the situation. He hoped that those who had the power would give serious and urgent consideration to what should be done and he said that if changes were not made the next report was likely to be considerably more gloomy than the present one.

Service out of the jurisdiction

In re ERAS EIL Actions

Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Nourse

[Judgment November 21]

The test of a good arguable case which a plaintiff had to show under Order 11, rule 4(2) before a court would serve notice on a defendant out of the jurisdiction was not to be applied rigorously in complete isolation from all other aspects of the case.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing appeals and cross-appeals, save in one part, brought by Clarksons, a UK broking group of companies, one of which was ERAS (International) Ltd: Howdens, a US group of companies acting as agents; Societe Commercial de Reassurance SA ("SCOR") a French corporation; London Agency Inc ("TLA") of Atlanta, Georgia and International Insurance Co Inc ("IIC") of Chicago, Illinois against the decisions of Mr Justice Waller on January 28, 1991 to grant leave to serve notices and writs out of the jurisdiction and to join the parties under certain claims in contract and/or tort and/or contribution in respect of the ERAS environmental impairment liability ("EIL") insurance devised by Clarksons to cover to industrial concerns against liability for gradual environmental pollution.

Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC and Mr Mark V. Smith for Clarksons; Mr Samuel Stamler, QC and Mr Gavin Kealey for Howdens; Mr Piers Legh-Jones, QC, Mr Clifford Gill and Mr Peter Gross for SCOR; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC, Mr Mark Howard and Mr Stuart Catchpole for IIC and TLA.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL, giving the judgment of the court to which all three members had contributed, said that Order 11, rule 4(2) imposed a three-fold duty upon the plaintiff seeking leave to serve a defendant out of the jurisdiction.

The court had to be satisfied by the plaintiff that there was a good arguable claim on the merits, that there was a strong possibility that the claim fell within the sub-paragraphs of Order 11, rule 1(1) of the Supreme Court relied on and that England was the forum in which the case could most suitably be tried in the interests of all the parties and for the ends of justice.

Although the traditional three-stage enquiry was convenient for the purpose of analysis it should not be allowed to disguise the fact that the stages were linked. The expression "good arguable case", mystifying to a foreigner, conveyed an impression with which the English lawyer was familiar but it would not yield to dissection and any enquiry on such a basis was unprofitable.

The imprecision of the test reinforced the opinion that the grant of leave under Order 11 should be looked at in the round and was not to be over-analysed.

There should be no attempt to define what standard should be applied to dependent claims for there would be a risk of creating a formula which would be applied by rote to situations where it would be inappropriate.

However, for a statement of the bare minimum, a useful precedent could be found in Order 11, rule 4(1)(d) which required that where A had served B within the jurisdiction and an application was made to serve C under rule 1(1)(c), the affidavit leading the application had to state the deponent's belief that there was between A and B "a real issue which the plaintiff may reasonably ask the court to try".

Leave to serve notice on any third party outside the jurisdiction under rule 3(4) might be granted where that party was a "necessary or proper party to the proceedings brought by the defendant".

But that was a reference to the action or other proceedings brought by the plaintiff and it encompassed a wide and elastic class of persons who could be identified, in general terms, by looking at Order 15, rule 6(2)(b).

The class of necessary or proper parties to an action included persons who ought to have been joined by the plaintiff as a co-defendant or a co-plaintiff or whose presence before the court was otherwise necessary or proper.

The words were amply wide enough to include a case where, for instance, a defendant was seeking relief, such as an indemnity, from a non-party in respect of the plaintiff's claims in the action.

Depending on the particular facts, that might be a question or issue arising out of or connected with the relief claimed by the plaintiff in his action. If it was, then the court had to decide whether it would be justifiable and convenient to determine that question or issue between the defendant and the non-party as well as between the plaintiff and the defendant.

The court would order the joinder or not of the non-party, depending on what was the just and convenient course. In many cases the convenient course would be for the indemnity claim to be made the subject of a third-party notice.

But although that might be the normal course to take, it was not the only course. Depending on the circumstances, such a person might properly be joined, on the defendant's application, as an additional defendant in the action. He would be a proper party to the action.

The principle established in *Parker v Schuller and Another* ([1901] 17 TLR 299) that where leave to serve out was obtained in respect of a claim based on one cause of action it could not be treated as leave in respect of a claim based on some other cause of action.

Consequently, as a cause of action, based allegedly on an oral contract, had not been included in the writ, service of that writ would be set aside in so far as it related to the claim based on that oral contract and an appeal to that extent would in part succeed.

However, jurisdiction did exist in the present case for the court to give leave to serve out of the jurisdiction and, although there were sufficient differences in the Court of Appeal's assessment of the claims to justify a reappraisal of the judge's conclusion, there had been no error in law nor mistake nor was the judge's decision wrong and the Court of Appeal would not therefore intervene in his exercise of discretion.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons; Freshfields; Lovell White Durrant; Baker & McKenzie.

Setting aside leave for judicial review

Regina v Bromsgrove District Council, Ex parte Kennedy

Before Mr Justice Popplewell

[Judgment November 21]

While the High Court did have jurisdiction to set aside leave for judicial review which had been granted by a single judge on an *ex parte* application, such applications to set aside should be made only in exceptional cases.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing the application by the respondent, Bromsgrove District Council, to set aside leave to apply for judicial review granted on Mrs Linda Kennedy's written application *ex parte* by Mr Justice Henry on May 25, 1991.

On June 24, the council applied to set aside that leave on three grounds: (i) material non-disclosure by the applicant, (ii) the applicant had no sensible prospect of success; (iii) the application had not been made promptly within the three months.

Mr John Randall for the council; Mr Barry Payton for Mrs Kennedy.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that there was no doubt that the court had jurisdiction to set aside leave granted by a single judge *ex parte*: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Herbage (No 2)* ([1987] 1 QB 1077).

For the benefit of the profession, however, his Lordship wished to make some observations as there appeared to be a growth industry in that there were many applications in the Crown Office list.

It might be that those acting for respondents thought that this was an easy way to have their cases dealt with ahead of others.

There were numerous authorities, including those of the Court of Appeal, where it had been held that an application to set aside for leave was to be made only in exceptional cases: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Nazir Chinoy* (*The Times* April 16, 1991).

Before a case came to court, the practice in the Crown Office was, as in this case, that a bundle of documents was given to the single judge to consider the application on paper. That was very time consuming, exhausting and required a great deal of diligence by the single judge.

It was true that if the single judge refused leave that the application could be renewed in open court. Whether to grant or refuse leave was a serious problem for the single judge on an *ex parte* application who had only the applicant's papers.

It was abundantly clear from common sense and previous authorities that matters put before the judge in *ex parte* applications should not in any way mislead, deliberately or innocently. Full details should be put before him.

Omissions were as bad as something that turned out to be untrue. The judge relied on the affidavits and the grounds stated in deciding whether to grant leave.

Solicitors: Pinsent & Co, Birmingham; Varley Hibbs & Co, Leamington Spa.

Limit to immunity from suit

Welsh Development Agency v Export Finance Co Ltd

The immunity from suit conferred, in certain circumstances, by section 234 of the Insolvency Act 1986 on, among others, administrative receivers who had "seize[d] . . . property which is not property of the company" applied only to the seizure of tangible property, and not where choses in action were involved.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Staughton) so held, *inter alia*, in reserved judgments on November 19 when allowing in part an appeal by Export Finance Co Ltd ("Exfinco") from an order of March 28, 1990 by Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, the other parties in the case being the Welsh Development Agency and Mr J. P. Considine and Mr H. G. Jones, the receivers appointed by the agency of property of Parrot Corporation Ltd charged by a debenture in the agency's favour.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that there was an allegation that, in writing to overseas buyers of Parrot's goods asking them to make payment to the receivers rather than to Exfinco, the receivers had committed the tort of wrongful interference with contract. One question was whether the section 234 defence availed the receivers.

Although "property", in its definition in section 436 of the 1986 Act, was given a wide meaning, the word "seized" used in section 234(3) and (4) was, in its natural sense, only applicable to tangible property, and not to choses in action. Subsection (2) also appeared, at least primarily, to be dealing with tangible property only.

Correction

In *The Observer and The Guardian v UK* and *The Sunday Times v UK (No 2)* (*The Times* November 27), the reference to MI6 should have been MI5.

Are you fit to live longer?

Can the right diet and lifestyle prevent life-threatening diseases? Ann Kent reports on the latest advice

MICHAEL BENNETT



Every other man, and one woman in three will not survive to celebrate their 75th birthday. These deaths — about 240,000 per year in England and Wales — are often preventable, according to reports and statements issued by medical experts this week.

On Monday the Health Education Authority launched *The Smoking Epidemic — Counting the Cost*. On Tuesday the Imperial Cancer Research Fund announced the launch of a massive European study into the links between cancer and diet; on the same day the Royal College of Physicians published a 212-page report, *Preventive Medicine*; yesterday, the *British Medical Journal* produced its own detailed description of how the government's plans to improve the nation's health might be modified.

Health education has changed in the past decade. The latest advice puts much greater emphasis on vitamins and exercise — influences which were regarded as marginal in the 1980s. Another relatively new finding is that the elderly can extend their lives by improving their diets, taking a daily walk and giving up smoking.

According to government actuaries, a man who is 60 now can expect another 14 years of life and a woman another 17 years. At 80 they can expect six and eight more years respectively. Research suggests that people who live into their eighties do not spend more years dependent on others than those who die in their sixties and seventies. Many of the infirmities of old age are now believed to be potentially avoidable.

However, the experts admit that they can pronounce on disease prevention until laryngitis sets in, but people will not follow their advice if the result is more years of being confined to a bed or wheelchair.

As Professor Desmond Julian, a co-author of *Preventive Medicine*, says, remaining healthy has to be part of the longevity package. So what is the latest thinking on how to live as long as possible in the best possible health?

DIET

THE most controversial area of preventive medicine. Everyone can potentially modify their diets, and fortunes in the food and food supplements industries hang on what the public chooses to believe about diet and health.

These days, health educators are keen to promote what people should eat, rather than overemphasise what they should avoid, and a growing body of research suggests that diet can help prevent cancer (experts in disease patterns believe that about 35 per cent of all cancer deaths are caused by poor diet), heart disease, diabetes and a number of other chronic ailments. But the evidence is inconclusive, and a dietary study involving seven European countries will begin next year in an attempt to provide evidence.• Present knowledge suggests that the kind of diets which help avoid heart disease may also help protect against cancer. Such diets include plenty of fish, fruit, fresh vegetables and complex carbohydrates, including oats and beans, and are low in saturated (animal) fats.

• Arguments continue over the rival merits of polyunsaturated versus saturated fats, but there is a general consensus that most people need to reduce the total fat content they eat.

• Hunger should be satisfied with starchy carboydrate foods, rather than foods high in fats or sugar.

• Some experts believe anti-oxidant vitamins — C, E and beta-carotene — play an important part in the prevention of cancer and heart disease.

• Prevention of cardiovascular disease may begin in the womb. Professor David Barker of the University of Southampton believes that poor nutrition in the womb and in the earliest years of life "prime" a child to develop such diseases. Some of his findings suggest the adverse effect of this bad start are more important than anything which happens later.

• Being mildly overweight does not seem to be associated with early death, although some research suggests such people are likely to be ill more often than those of normal weight.

• The more overweight the individual the higher the risks of strokes, non-insulin dependent diabetes, gall stones, respiratory disorders, arthritis, hypertension and cancer of the gall bladder and endometrium (womb lining).

• Women have lower levels of an alcohol-destroying enzyme, which means they get drunk on less. Women alcoholics are more susceptible than men to cirrhosis.

• The standard medical advice on low risk drinking suggests that women should drink no more than 14 units of alcohol a week and men no more than 21 — including some drink-free days. A unit of alcohol is half a pint of beer, a small glass of sherry or wine, or a single measure of spirits.

• It is considered dangerous for men persistently to drink more than 50 units a week, or for women to drink more than 35.

• The Royal College of Physicians believes that all alcoholic drinks should be marked with their alcohol contents, and should also carry a health warning.

WOMEN

MOST illness prevention advice applies to both sexes, but *Preventive Medicine* highlights two additional areas:

• Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) greatly reduces a woman's risk of contracting osteoporosis, the bone-thinning disease, but may increase her chances of developing breast cancer. However, the cancer risk is much smaller, and less well established than the osteoporosis risk.

• Women have less muscle bulk than men, which may explain why elderly women spend longer periods as dependents than men. Some believe women should be at least as physically active as men all through life to compensate.

SMOKING

PEOPLE who smoke are now more often described by health educators in terms of "dependence" and "addiction". Many people succeed in giving up and the number of adult smokers has been declining for many years. However, 30 per cent of 19-year-olds are smokers. Experts in disease patterns believe that about 30 per cent of all cancer deaths are caused by smoking.

• About 111,000 people a year (300 a day) die from smoking-related causes — cancers, heart disease, stroke and lung diseases.

• A male smoker runs double the risk of dying before the age of 65 than a non-smoker. A woman smoker has a 70 per cent increased risk.

• A 35-year-old man who smokes can expect to die seven years earlier than a non-smoker: a woman smoker five years earlier.

• The authors of *Preventive Medicine* call for a ban on all tobacco promotion, and suggest that health professionals should counsel smokers during consultations.

EXERCISE

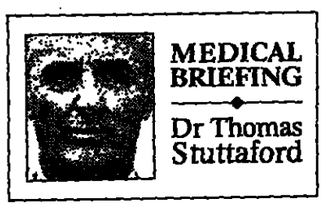
AN impressive body of evidence suggests that regular physical exercise protects against coronary heart disease.

• Cycling and swimming are particularly recommended by the Royal College of Physicians, which says workplaces should provide time and facilities for these activities.

• Lack of exercise is also associated with obesity, osteoporosis in women and reduced muscle strength and bulk in the elderly.

• It may also lead to impaired co-ordination in old people.

Strangers to themselves



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A WOMAN so successfully concealed her 11-year-old son from the authorities in a suburban house that his existence was only discovered after detectives, making routine enquiries, noticed the squalor of the surroundings. The boy's only companions, other than his mother, were a menagerie of animals. Interim medical reports suggest that neither the boy nor his mother are suffering from any psychiatric illness.

The possible causes of reclusive bizarre behaviour are legion, and it is impossible to comment on any particular case without a lengthy and detailed assessment. However, many people who show distinct oddities of behaviour and an inability to meet the normal demands of society, or if, when meeting them, show an unexpected social response, may be suffering from schizophrenia.

Schizophrenics are usually, but not always, isolated people who become more and more detached from their friends and family. They find it hard to express the emotions they feel. Too often, schizophrenics feel that they are unusual, and that the rest of the world stares and comments unfavourably on them. Given these delusions they — quite rationally in the circumstances — hide themselves and may be very angry and upset if forced out of their lair.

Sometimes rejecting, and in their view rejected by, human society, they resort to the animal kingdom for companionship. If they go out voluntarily it may well be to take walks after dark, or when no one is about, and they frequently try to conceal themselves, like an ostrich burying its head in the sand, by wearing long black clothes and dark glasses.

Treatment for schizophrenia is constantly improving, but it can be difficult to persuade patients, who may well be suspicious, to take it despite the accepted wisdom that the sooner they start on drug therapy, the better the outlook. This applies as much to those with negative symptoms — the withdrawn, with their flattened emotions and inert physical behaviour — as to those whose behaviour is aggressive or destructive.

Contrary to what one might assume, it is often the negative features which are most persistent and socially disabling.



Sweet balm for stomachs

PEPTIC ulceration — it was an ulcer which blighted Tom Sutherland's return from captivity as a hostage in Beirut — is a well-recognised complication for those confronted by exciting food after years of deprivation and a monotonous, inadequate diet.

Perhaps all would have been well if Dr Sutherland's transition from prison fare to 20th-century menus had been eased with honey. This week Peter Nolan, a biochemist at Waikato University in Auckland, announced that New Zealand honey will eliminate Helicobacter pylori, the stomach bacteria which are associated with peptic ulcers, which can either be gastric or duodenal.

The anti-bacterial properties of honey — New Zealand or Norfolk — have been utilised in medicine before: 50 years ago Mr Michael Bulman, a Norwich consultant obstetrician, would spread honey on episiotomy wounds to prevent infection after childbirth.

The exact role of the bacteria H. pylori in peptic ulceration is undecided. But an analysis in *Mims*, the medical magazine, two Manchester gastroenterologists — Dr John Duffy and Dr Paul Miller — addressed the question as to whether H. pylori is the villain which causes the ulceration, or merely an innocent bystander hanging around at the scene of the crime.

Although the organism is only present in the stomachs of a minority of healthy individuals, it can be demonstrated in 90 per cent to 100 per cent of patients with duodenal ulcers, and 70 per cent to 80 per cent of those with gastric ulcers. For those who doubt the efficacy of honey, eradicating the bacteria is undertaken with "triple treatment" — a two-week course of antibiotics, either amoxycillin or tetracyclines, metronidazole (Flagyl) and a bismuth preparation, and then, De-Nol.

This treatment, which clears many cases of resistent or recurrent duodenal ulceration, should be reserved for patients with this troublesome problem.

Gastric ulcers, oesophagitis, non-ulcer indigestion, and many simple duodenal ulcers should be treated traditionally with Zantac, Tagamet or Losec. Triple treatment is not appropriate for patients with ulcers due to anti-rheumatic treatment.

Swimming into trouble

SWIMMING is one of the best physical exercises but, in the final analysis, the pool is no more than a giant edition of the footballer's changing room communal bath.

There is a difference, though: most people give up drinking bath water once they have left toddlerhood, and stopped sucking their sponge, but swimming pool water, contaminated by others, is swallowed by the pint. It is easily polluted; other bathers' personal hygiene may be questionable, they may have infected boils and spots, sore throats, discharging noses and genital infections. Water stimulates urination, and exercise exposes any incontinence.

Any of these polluting organisms would, if left untreated, cause infected skin, ears and eyes, as well as diarrhoeal illnesses and sore throats. Hygiene problems are overcome by effective filtration and disinfection, but this week the Pool Water Advisory Group made a plea for their task to be eased. Bacteria, it seems, flourish in warm water. If only the temperature was lowered by a few degrees, costs of heating and disinfection would be substantially lessened.



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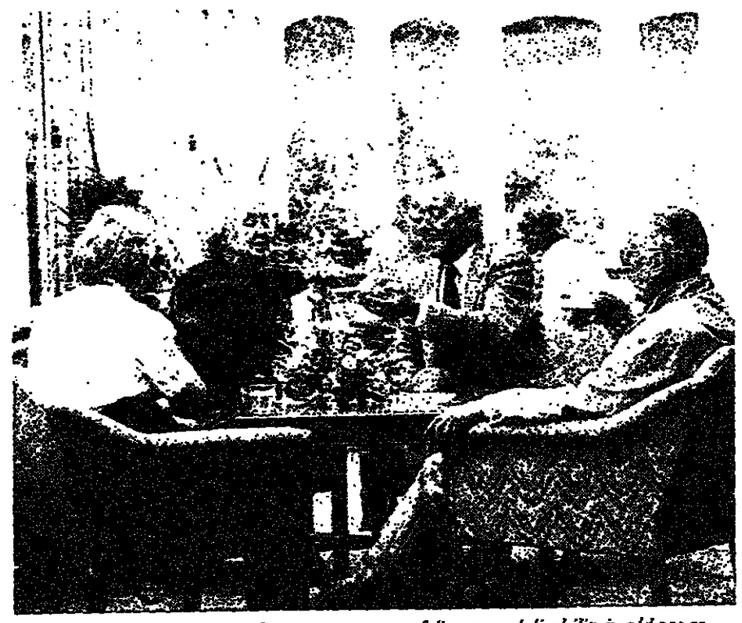
CARE FOR THE ELDERLY "ILLOGICAL AND UNJUST"

A leading geriatric specialist has challenged the Government's Green Paper "The Health of the Nation" on its attitude towards the elderly.

Lack of understanding about human ageing and ignorance of the potential for improvements in the health of older people were the main criticisms by Professor John Grimley Evans, a leading specialist in Geriatric Medicine and a Fellow of Green College Oxford.

Giving the 5th Bayliss annual lecture sponsored by PPP (Private Patients Plan) in London on November 13th, he said that the diversion of "the elderly" into health services separate from those for other adult ages had no scientific logic and had seriously impeded research and logical thought about ageing.

"It is astonishing that the Green Paper has totally failed to address the biggest challenge facing our health services over the next 20 years," said Professor Grimley Evans. "Although the expectation of life at birth is now firmly into the 70s for both men and women in Britain, the Green Paper defined "premature" death as that occurring before aged 65. This definition dates from days when people were only valued for their potential value as exploitable labour to the State. The paper acknowledged that strokes occur to people aged up to the age of 75, but considered rehabilitation only up to aged 65."



"We do not have to accept the present pattern of disease and disability in old age as inevitable", said Professor Grimley Evans

Professor Grimley Evans said that the paper implied that prevention of illness in adult life would merely postpone it to old age where "the burden would finally fall".

"This fatalistic philosophy can only lead to ignoring later life as an area for improvement of health," he said.

Contrary to long held opinions, therapeutic and lifestyle interventions for preventing and treating ill health, particularly cardiovascular ill health, continued to be effective into old age. So did control of high blood pressure at least up to the age of 80, reducing the risk of a stroke. Giving up cigarettes in old age rapidly reduced the risk of heart attacks even in people with established coronary heart disease. Modification of blood cholesterol levels could be beneficial in old as well as middle-aged people. Therapy following heart attacks was at least as effective in saving the lives of older patients as of young.

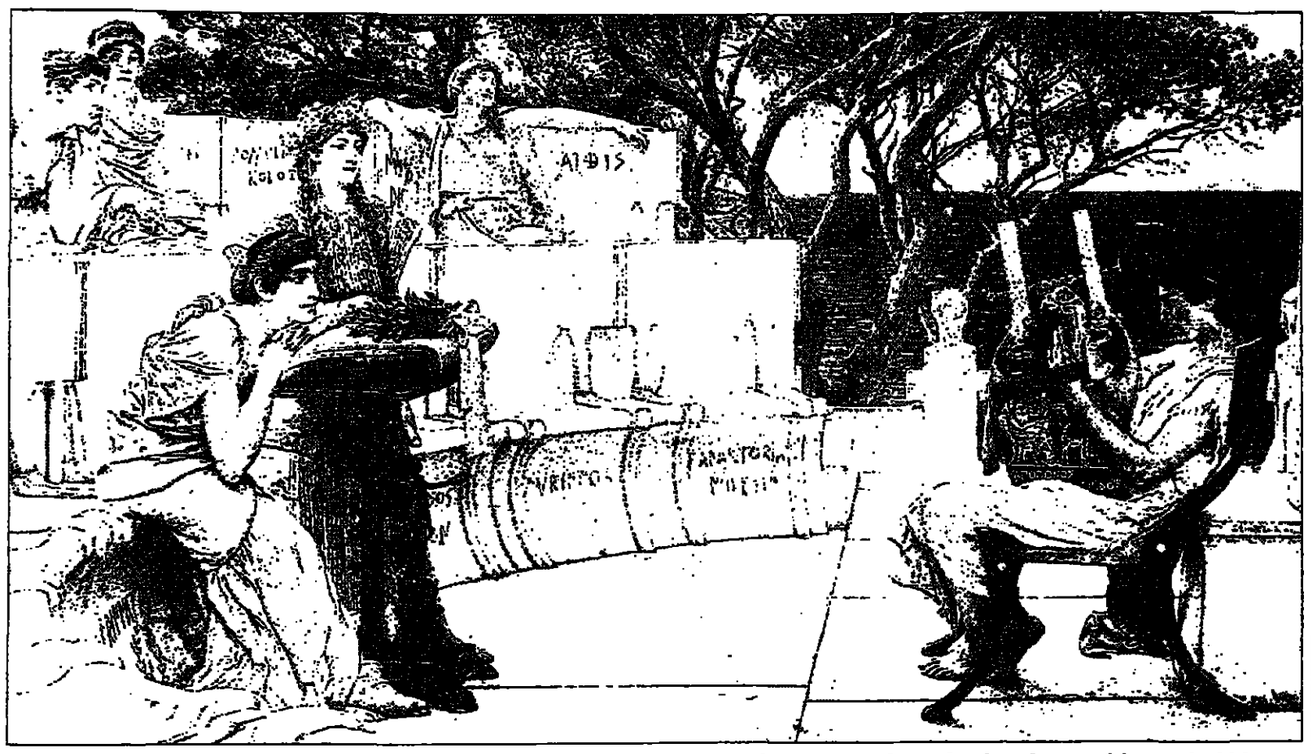
Recent population studies in the United States showed that the longer an older person survived in a fit state, the shorter on average would be the period of any disablement he or she would ultimately have to endure and someone to pay for.

The Professor continued that the conclusion implied in the Green Paper that prevention of illness in later life would increase costs and merely delayed dependency without diminishing it, was groundless.

"We do not have to accept the present pattern of disease and disability in old age as inevitable. Indeed, the health of older people would be an ideal choice for one of the key areas to be designated in the legislation to follow the Green Paper."

Professor Grimley Evans went on to say that the body begins to age at around 12 or 13 and is continuous throughout adult life. There was no discontinuity to justify the separation of "the elderly" from the rest of the human race at any age later than the early teens.

Classic Victorian values



Sappho and Alcaeus, by Alma-Tadema, transforming sex into high drama. Sappho listens enchanted to her chum reciting to the kithara

Peter Ackroyd on a brilliant book about the Victorian sensibility to the Greeks, and ours to the Victorians

DIGNITY AND DECADENCE
By Richard Jenkyns
HarperCollins, £30

Among sophisticated people it is often assumed that "historical" painting and "historical" fiction (historical drama is for some reason generally excepted) are an irrelevance, a diversion from the pressing consideration of current reality, a cop-out from the business of interpreting modern life. This is nonsense: "historical" works often have a more direct communication with the life of their period, and more faithfully evoke it, than any work of mere contemporary reference. It would be fair to say that the classical paintings of Frederic Leighton, for example, tell us much more about the Victorian sensibility — about the Victorian spirit — than any work by the apparently realistic and up-to-date William Frith.

This is in fact the theme of Jenkyns's book which, subtitled "Victorian art and the classical inheritance", is concerned with 19th-century obsession. The culture of ancient Greece was everywhere — in the buildings, in the books, in the furniture, in the wallpaper, and even in the advertisements. In one poster for Beecham's Patent Pills, two Hellenic ladies clasp hands in a tableau of Health Crowning Beauty. There was very little of either beauty or health in most 19th-century cities, but although it is generally taken for granted that the great Victorian contribution to our urban architecture resides in the neo-Gothic, Jenkyns makes the perfectly just and persuasive point that the "basic vernacular of Victorian London is a kind of debased classical".

How did it happen? Or, more generally, why is it that one age becomes vigorously attached to the life and art of a remote period? It must have something to do with a sense of appropriateness, or at least a need for appropriation — Greek civilisation offered the single most convincing aspiration for the public representatives of the period, whether in the shape of businessmen, politicians or architects. To use a not very Victorian expression, it cleaned up their act. But there is a more private aspect to this pursuit of the past and, as Jenkyns suggests, "The remoteness of Hellas from the modern world becomes an abiding theme in Victorian art and thought." It was remote, too, from the Victorians' fear of what they had become: to revive the Greeks was in a sense to revive an innocent adolescence spent in unseen translation and versification. In the reverence for a classical past there is also reverence and nostalgia for a golden childhood before the strife and struggle of the real world.



Graeco-Victorian Richard Jenkyns

Jenkyns has a different beginning, however, and his book opens with an account of those Greek revivalists of the early 19th century who wielded the Doric order with a suitably tribal frenzy. The battle was always between Greek and Gothic architecture — "two streams", as Jenkyns calls them, but in their proper context also evoking two separate views of Englishness. One was continental, the other indigenous: one modern and the other antiquarian, with the delicious vastness of Gothic reviving memories of Stukeley and Stonehenge. (In a sense, that battle is still going on.) Jenkyns himself puts the argument on a different level, and suggests that the passion for revivalism reflected the "arrogance and diffidence" of a whole civilisation.

This is very much a cultural history, therefore, but one that re-examines all the conventional assumptions about that culture — the author points out, for example, that the respectable Victorians were not respectable at all, and that in their use of classical motifs and images they transformed sex into "high drama". It was in many unexpected respects "an age of liberation".

Jenkyns is also very good on the importance of sculpture in the first decades of the century, at a time when John Flaxman had a European reputation and significance that no other English sculptor (with the possible exception of Moore) can equal. He is now almost forgotten but, even though sculpture has become the invisible art of the last century, Jenkyns reasserts here its central importance — how, in those smooth marmoreal lines, Victorian artists gave pale but permanent form to the longings and aspirations of their period.

Here is a cultural historian who is not afraid of travelling from Bristol to Dickens by way of the Bank of England, from Lawrence Alma-Tadema to Isambard Kingdom Brunel, from *Iolanthe* to funereal monuments. He is in search of that most elusive entity, the spirit of an age, and in the moment of discovery it is in Graecian dress — Jenkyns finds the shape of that remote culture in the appearance of a row of terraced houses no less than in the complexities of Ruskin's prose.

Of course it was not necessarily an unimpeded progress. The vogue for genre painting, and the temporary passion for anecdote or story, seemed to have quite displaced the grand neo-classicism of the 18th century, yet Hellenism came back; it came back because it was indeed part of the very fabric of the period. That is why Leighton's paintings are rather more interesting than those of Frith: his is a greater and more complex art because it deals with all the divided strands of the Victorian psyche.

Leighton in turn may fairly be said to lead to that late flowering of Victorian taste in the aesthetic movement, when Hellenism itself seems stunned beneath the weight of scented hot-house flowers: this was the Hellenism of Walter Pater and of homo-erotic fantasy, but it also represented a wilful or wounded blending of styles in which Greek and Gothic alike escaped the hard certainties of a Flaxman or a Pugin and came together at last. It is perhaps a form of decadence, an aspect of *fin-de-siècle*. And so the Greeks triumphed in the end. One last question remains: if the Victorians relied upon the Greeks, whom do we in turn rely upon? At the conclusion of his fascinating and instructive book, Jenkyns suggests that we have come to depend upon the Victorians.

Death from maths

HORROR

Anne Billson

THE COUNT OF ELEVEN
By Ramsey Campbell
Macdonald, £13.95

THE Count of Eleven is right up there with the best of Campbell's novels — which means that it is very good indeed. While it should go straight to the top of the reading list for anyone claiming an interest in British genre fiction, other potential readers should not be put off by the author's having been labelled as "the horror writers' horror writer"; this is inner darkness explored in a way closer to, say, Patricia Highsmith than to James Herbert. Campbell has always been skilful at charting the petty injustices and misapprehensions of everyday life, and these elements are here given full rein in the Merseyside locations which the writer knows inside-out.

Jack Orchard is an average sort of family man, apart from an obsessive tendency to invest numbers with an almost mystical significance. But his life is disrupted by a streak of bad luck, beginning with a fire that destroys his video rental store. In desperation, he digs out a previously ignored chain letter and sends copies to 13 complete strangers, thus launching himself onto a seesaw of good and bad fortune.

When obsession turns to murder, the chills stem not so much from what Jack *does*, as from the wiggy but alarmingly logical thought processes which have driven him there. Campbell's portrayal of a man turning into a monster is deft, compassionate and full of inky black humour. If *Silence of the Lambs* and *American Psycho* hold the modern serial killer up for inspection, *The Count of Eleven* takes us right inside his head. Unmissable.

■ **Jago**, by Kim Newman (*Simon & Schuster, £14.99*). Newman's third novel, with its chunky multiple-viewpoint and cast of thousands, is more of a conventional blockbuster than the first two, but the author's ability to sustain a fever-pitch pace, and his familiarity with the wilder shores of pop culture, make for a roaring good read, as a broad cross-section of British society erupts into an orgy of irrational violence and sexual anarchy. The setting is the Somerset village of Alder, historically a hotbed of weird phenomena, and currently home to the Reverend Anthony Jago — a man of awesome paranormal powers — and the glassy-eyed minions of his personal peace-and-love cult, among whose ranks are salted away a couple of observers from a wary British Intelligence.

The local population of rural types as from *Straw Dogs* is further supplemented by the punks, goths and hippies flocking in for the annual rock festival. As Alder's weird past reasserts itself, a visiting bookworm writing a thesis about the end of the world, sees Armageddon taking shape before his very eyes.

■ **Needful Things**, by Stephen King (*Hodder & Stoughton, £15.99*). King's latest is another example of the destruction of a smalltown community — here it's Castle Rock, a location familiar from several other King stories. But while *Jago* is an old formula reworked by a fresh new eye, *Needful Things* plods over *déjà vu* territory; King has done it before, and done it better, in *Salem's Lot* and *The Tommyknockers*.

Needful Things is the name of a new shop on Main Street: its proprietor is a sinister, Mephistophelean figure, who provides each customer with what he or she desires most in the world, whether a baseball card or a cure for chronic arthritis. Of course, there is a price to be paid, and in the paying of it the town duly gets trashed. King writes with his customary verve, but the parade of citizens trooping in and out of the shop before coming to a suitably sticky end becomes a tad repetitive, and the showdown between Good and Evil is a l-o-n-g time coming.

■ **Darklands**, edited by Nicholas Royle (*Egerton Press, £3.50 p & p from 5 Windsor Court, 24 Avenue Road, London N15 5JQ*). All the pros and cons of contemporary horror fiction are distilled in this slim but valuable volume. The pros are short stories — by established writers such as Stephen Gallagher and Derek Marlowe, and by interesting newcomers such as Julie Akhurst and Michael Marshall Smith — which do not slot easily into any pigeonhole, except that they are all extremely disturbing. That's the downside as well, because the big publishers have shied away from an anthology to which they can't attach a label, and the intrepid editor has been forced to publish it himself. He deserves support, for this is an excellent collection. Smith's story, in particular, is a *tour de force*.

Going for Parnassus

POETRY

Robert Nye

COLLECTED POEMS OF HENRY REED
Edited and introduced by Jon Stallworthy
Oxford University Press, £20

HENRY Reed is the chap who sent up Eliot something rotten with his parody, *Chard Whitlow*:

As we get older we do not
get any younger.
Seasons return, and today I
am fifty-five.
And this time last year I
was fifty-four.
And this time next year I
shall be sixty-two . . .

Reed's other claim to fame is *Naming of Parts*, a poem that plays off military gun terminology against the activity of birds and bees and blossoms in a conscript spring. Amusingly sly, this has, like the Eliot guying, a deft dab of camp about it, and it comes as no surprise to learn from Jon Stallworthy's introduction to the *Collected Poems* that Reed was homosexual. Is it the evasion of this matter that makes the rest of his work so cleverly heartless? Or was Reed one of those bright unfortunates who only get identity by mocking others? An anthology of loose ends would seem to me a fair description of his serious "original" work collected here, while that joke about Eliot may be immortal.

The Eliot parodied by Reed is of course specifically the Eliot of *Four Quartets*, which is to say Eliot at his most Parnassian. I borrow that useful term from a critical distinction in one of Gerard Manley Hopkins's letters, where he divides verse into two kinds, the inspired and the Parnassian. The Parnassian, Hopkins says, can be written only by real poets, but it is not in the highest sense poetry, being "spoken on and from the level of a poet's mind, not, as in the other case, when the inspiration, which is the gift of genius, raises him above himself". Parnassian, in other words, is what a poet writes when he *tries* to write a poem. The inspired poem comes at its own will.

■ Now John Heath-Stubbs strikes me as very much the complete Parnassian in his Selected Poems (*Carcanet, £5.95*), not least because he chooses to exclude from it that singular epitaph for himself which other readers will recognise as the man inspired: *Mr Heath-Stubbs as you must understand/ Came of a gentleman's family out of Staffordshire/ Of as good blood as any in England/ But he was wall-eyed and his legs too spare.* This has been left out, no doubt, because it is too popular, but then the popular taste is not always wrong, and little of Heath-Stubbs, a classic-minded but romantic-spirited poet, seems as good.

■ Patric Dickinson, about the same age but far less famous, appears not to write Parnassian at all, or not to publish it (which would be better still). His Not Hereafter (*The Mandeville Press, £3 plus 50p postage*) is an elegant tall booklet, 19 poems with not a dud among them, all characterised by a confusion-cancelling seriousness which sounds inspired. I quote *Total Eclipse of the Moon* since it is short enough to give in full:

The shadow of our Earth
Is brown as a nightingale
Singing of seed and birth
No man can uforetell.

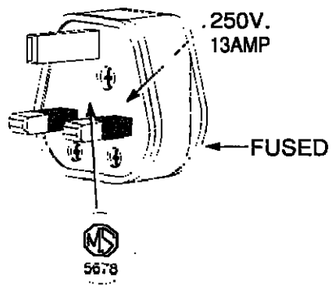
A moving observation, but something more because of the unanticipatable magic which rhymes *nightingale* and *uforetell*, and puts humankind in place by doing so. Dickinson has never been a poetic show-off. His verse is clean, unobtrusive, and quietly original.

■ Not even his most rhetoric-besotted fans would claim the same for Yevgeny Yevtushenko. Twenty-five distinguished translators, including John Updike and the Poet Laureate, do their best to English this noisy Russian's Collected Poems 1952-1990, edited by Albert C. Todd with the author and James Ragan (*Mainstream, £18*). Yevtushenko went on record long ago as resenting being discussed as a political personality, and these versions certainly justify that resentment by establishing him as a vigorous artist of the hit-or-miss school.

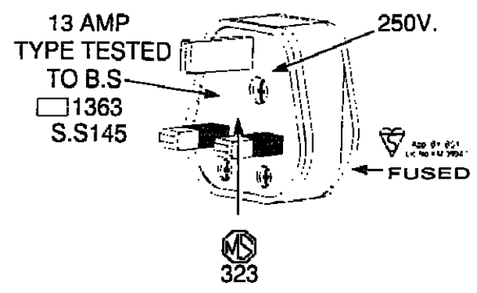
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Metroland with love

Simon Jenkins

THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND
London 3: North West
By Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner
Penguin, £25

AT LAST a truly eclectic architectural guide. Even the great Pevsner was partial, in his case to abstract Modernism and against post-Edwardian revivalism. Bridget Cherry's taste is one of unrestrained tolerance. And nowhere is tolerance more needed, or more rewarded, than in *London 3: North West*. A greatly extended edition of Pevsner's Middlesex and outer London volumes, the latest in the Penguin Buildings of England series is a masterpiece of modern topography.

The revision of Pevsner's early work in London is not easy. Boundaries have changed, buildings have vanished, and a huge amount of new architecture has appeared. Already, the cities of London and Westminster and London south of the Thames have met the challenge. This third volume (to be followed by the North East) sets a new standard in thoroughness and scholarship.

Kensington and Chelsea, Regent's Park, Chiswick and Syon come easily. The coverage given their palaces, museums and monuments is workmanlike, Pevsnerian and familiar. Where Cherry comes into her own is in the outer reaches, in Hounslow and Brent, Hillingdon and Ealing. Here the old Pevsner concept of a "perambulation" takes on novel adventure. There are 13 index references to the North Circular Road: at the junction with the M1, "elegantly curving slabs of tinted glass 1973-5 by R. Seifert and Partners, *see also* Neasden". Boxing the compass round Heathrow embraces the glorious tithe barn at Harmondsworth, the friendly little church of Cranford, the Norman doorway at Harlington, and the medieval wall paintings of East Bedfont.

Neasden is defended against *Private Eye*: "very modest sets of railway workers cottages" just one window wide, though the best it can offer is The Grange local museum "unhappily stranded on a roundabout just south of the North Circular". The jewels of interwar commercial architecture, the Hoover and Pyrene factories, are lovingly and closely described.

Best of all is Cherry's careful charting of the pattern of 20th-century development, as speculative builders spread out from the villages of Harrow and Pinner, Isleworth and Uxbridge to carpet Middlesex in suburbia.

Much of this was as good as anything the garden city movement produced in Hertfordshire and elsewhere: Metroland acting as worthy successor to the grand estates of North Kensington and Brompton (also in this volume). A splendid book.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Fine cast breaks the mould

Geoff Brown reviews a BBC Television co-production, *Enchanted April*, plus *Proof*, *Hot Shots!*, *The Indian Runner*, *Iron Maze* and *Omen IV: The Awakening*

A delicious period comedy about the English abroad, **Enchanted April** (U, Curzon West End), plays like a low-budget, bantamweight Merchant-Ivory production. Wan colour and some cramped compositions indicate the film's origins and eventual home, that is BBC Television, which after some years of inertia has finally picked up the torch first lit by Channel Four and moved into film co-production.

For its travails the BBC gets some well-publicised product that, in theory, generates money and prestige (*Truly Madly Deeply* became a particular cult hit in the States); while the cinemagoers get more British films than they otherwise would, though their visual quality may seem more appropriate to fireside viewing. In this case, at least, superlative playing and witty material make for perfectly civilised big-screen entertainment.

The storyline of Peter Barnes's script, plus many of the best lines, stem from a novel of 1922 by the intriguing Elizabeth von Arnim, cousin of Katharine Mansfield, and author of *Elizabeth and her German Garden*. Two Hampstead wives (Miranda Richardson, Josie Lawrence) try to escape their dull existence — as Lawrence gravely observes, "You can always trust a woman who parts her hair in the middle" — by renting an Italian villa. Two other ladies, a society beauty and an imperious widow, help share the finances. Gradually, the Italian sun opens their clogged hearts; while various menfolk — two husbands, plus the villa's owner — drop in for complications.

The film is the airiest soufflé, far from the usual dish of director Mike Newell, best-known for stringing up Ruth Ellis in *Dance With a Stranger*. Yet he never behaves as though this were a chore; how could he, with a cast so expert in character playing and comic nuances?

Joan Plowright has the fruitiest role as Mrs Fisher, an obdurate soul living on memories of Browning and Tennyson. But all play their part with grace and precision: from Miranda Richardson as the Hampstead do-gooder bothered by her resemblance to a "disappointed Madonna" to Michael Kitchen's short-sighted villa owner. *Enchanted April* is that distinct rarity: a completely happy film.

With **Proof** (15, Camden Plaza, Chelsea Cinema and Cannon Tottenham Court Road), Antipodean cinema gets another new director to crow about. Her name is Jocelyn Moorhouse: she has worked in Australian television, but this is her first feature. On this evidence, Moorhouse may not be a visual magician like Jane Campion, but her talent is real and this fascinating entertainment lingers in the mind.

At the heart of *Proof* lies a teasing issue: the subjective nature of sight. The thirtyish hero, Martin, is blind and truculent. Were he left alone, he might age into the horrendous Mr Muckle who causes W.C. Fields's shopkeeper such misery in *It's a Gift* (bang, crash: "You've got that door closed again!"). To prove the validity of his sensual perceptions, Martin photographs scenes around him and persuades Andy, a guileless kitchen hand, to attach short descriptions to the snaps. The truth of the photos becomes compromised by the activities of Celia: Martin's housekeeper, vindictive through unrequited love.

Moorhouse lets in plenty of humour, from darting ironies to the full-blown comedy of Martin and Andy's escapade at a drive-in movie. Yet the dominant tone remains claustrophobic. For the duration, we share Martin's circumscribed world: a ponderous suburban house; ritual walks in the neighbourhood park. Outside her love-hate bond, Celia has no other life. Andy becomes equally trapped in the triangle. Flashbacks offer no escape: they only take us to Martin's boyhood.

All this may seem meat for an arid exercise in the games people play. But Moorhouse manipulates the situations with such unforced skill that she keeps us on edge. The actors help greatly, breathing life into these contrary folk: Hugo Weaving as Martin; Genevieve Picot as the housekeeper; Russell Crowe as the amiable chump walking into a hornet's nest.

When Charlie Sheen remarks that he has his father's eyes, he fishes them from his pocket, mounted in a spectacle case. Such is the humour of **Hot Shots!** (12, Odeon Leicester Square), the latest creation from director Jim Abrahams and co-writer Pat Proft, of *Airplane!* and the *Naked Gun* movies.

Hot Shots!, though, seems an also-ran in the spoof comedy stakes. We look for the touches of lunacy that made its predecessors so endearing, but all we find is Lloyd Bridges bumping into things and a running joke about sitting on chihuahuas. We look for topical mischief. True, Saddam Hussein makes a brief appearance, but the bulk of the jokes rest on a five-year-old movie: *Top Gun*. To today's young audiences, this is ancient history.

Charlie Sheen shoulders the principal part of a renegade navy pilot joining an elite team on a dangerous mission codenamed Sleepy Weasel. He might almost be parodying the role he played straight in *Navy Seals*. Other roles go to Cary Elwes (his rival in the air) and Valeria Golino, the base's psychiatrist who suffers the film's most idiotic jest when eggs and bacon are fried on her stomach, parodying the *9½ Weeks* brand of erotic romance. Such antics rack up easy laughs, but they do nothing to ease the film's air of desperate scrapings from a near-empty barrel.

The end credits for *Hot Shots!* quote cooking recipes. Those for **The Indian Runner** (15, Cannon Tottenham Court Road) — Sean Penn's first feature as writer and director — quote Tagore. This is a film to be taken seriously: you can tell by the slow, brooding pace, the air of misery, the use of Indian legends to give mythic relevance to events that never quite deserve them.

Taking his cue from Bruce Springsteen's song "Highway Patrolman", Penn spins a morose tale of two brothers in late Sixties' Nebraska: one good (local cop, family man) and one bad (Vietnam veteran, petty criminal). It is easy to see Penn's furrowed brows behind Frank, the hell-raising brother who fights shy of responsibility and spits out half-chewed peas at his pregnant child bride.

Viggo Mortensen, playing Frank, gives a fine performance. But he unbalances the film. Against this dark jester, David Morse (as Joe the good egg) is left dangling, flashing empty anguish as he tries to return Frank to the fold following the sudden deaths of both parents (Sandy Dennis — blink and you miss her — and Charles Bronson).

Penn dedicates the film to the memory of two mentors, Hal Ashby and John Cassavetes. Another, Dennis Hopper, appears in a seedy cameo. Cassavetes seems to have influenced the directing style most: long takes, strong acting, emotional intensity. Faults acknowledged, this remains an interesting debut. Next time round, perhaps Penn will have washed the indulgent gloom from his system.

Iron Maze (15, Cannons Haymarket and Oxford Street), a curious US-Japanese venture with Oliver Stone as executive producer, stands indicted on three counts. The film touches on a fruitful subject — American fears of Japan's business takeovers — but lacks the courage to grapple issues head on. The director Hiroaki Yoshida picks a fantastic location, a crumbling Pennsylvania steel factory, then squanders it through repetitive shots. The film also sullies memories of Kurosawa's *Rashomon*, laboriously dragging its source material, a 1927 short story, through the mire.

Rashomon gave us subjective interpretations of a violent forest incident. Now the setting is a disused factory outside Pittsburgh, where the new Japanese owner lies close to death, brained by a steel pipe. A disgruntled bellhop (Jeff Fahey) claims responsibility. The owner's American wife (Bridget Fonda) tells one story, then another. Who tells the truth? Who cares? By this time, the film itself lies close to death, brained by puppet characters, timid politics and poor dramatic technique.

"She's a living miracle!" croons the nun, about to turn over a newborn baby to its adoptive parents. But this is **Omen IV: The Awakening** (15, Cannon Panton Street); the miracle grows into a child of Satan (eight-year old Asia Vieira). This tame re-hash of shocks from previous *Omen* movies was made for US television, which explains the low blood count, though not the terrible quality. Jorge Montesi and Dominique Othenin-Gerard directed.



Joan Plowright: "an obdurate soul living on memories of Browning and Tennyson", in *Enchanted April*

TELEVISION REVIEW

Big hand for small wonder

A mere three hours for an adaptation of Samuel Richardson's million-word 18th-century novel *Clarissa* seemed, at first glance, a slightly absurd proposition. Memories of Tom Stoppard's famous ten-minute *Hamlet* rose unbidden to the mind (characters introducing themselves then falling dead in heaps on the floor), and one started to think pious thoughts about poor old Richardson shifting uneasily in his grave.

Fortunately, last night's first episode of the television Clarissa (BBC 2) was so impressive that such fears were instantly dismissed. Classy in all things, this adaptation (directed by Robert Bierman) was notably magnificent on the matter of dramatic pace. For anyone familiar with Richardson's dense moment-by-moment text (which consists mostly in breathless present-tense letters between the characters), the effect was like hang-gliding at speed across the novel's terrain: it felt dangerous and exhilarating, while also affording a splendid view.

In film terms, the landscape was an eye-opener. *Clarissa* is a book primarily of mental worlds: externalised, it encompasses stately architecture, garden walks, trees rustling in the breeze, all against the sound of the distant screaming of peacocks. The adapters, David Nokes and Janet Barron, carefully planted bird imagery throughout the text. The virtuous and independent-minded Clarissa Harlowe (Saskia Wickham) was too "flighty", it was said: she was thus surrounded by people who stalked her with nets, guns and wing-clippers. In all her silken finery, she was the original girl in a gilded cage.

In fact, Clarissa was so bamboozled, bullied and boxed in — on the one side by a jealous scheming family with ghastly marriage-plans, on the other by the importunate scheming rake Lovelace (Sean Bean) — that she made a very serious panic-decision. At the end of the episode, she escaped the family home at night-time under the protection of a man whose wig and buckle-shoes barely concealed his metaphorical horns and cloven hooves. As a moral choice for a moral young woman, this getaway was clearly like walking directly into a snare.

"A woman must know when to bend, or else she must surely break," warns Clarissa's mother. But bending has no place in Clarissa's life-plan, and when her Addams Family-style brother and sister start knocking her about, she actually rips her own bodice (a novel twist on an old cliché), and sets about her escape. If the novel had not been written in the 18th century, one might be suspicious that such an admirable female role-model could have existed prior to our own feminist times. "Have I no duty to myself?" she demands, with resounding moral authority. Sister, put it there.

This was terrific drama, beautifully filmed and constructed, and bearing virtually no resemblance to the genre known as "BBC costume drama", since the period was relatively unusual, the acting and direction filmic in style, and there was no glimpse of Colin Jeavons. Saskia Wickham and Sean Bean both have the admirable quality of looking like real people, rather than characters from a novel; and Sean Bean's Lovelace is so perfectly evil that he is even plausible when pretending to be good.

Thus, when he cynically puts moral pressure on Clarissa (he begs her to save his soul, knowing that she is a sucker where redemption is concerned), Bean plays it straight on the nose, without a shred of irony. Which is, of course, how the devil himself is supposed to play it.

LYNNE TRUSS

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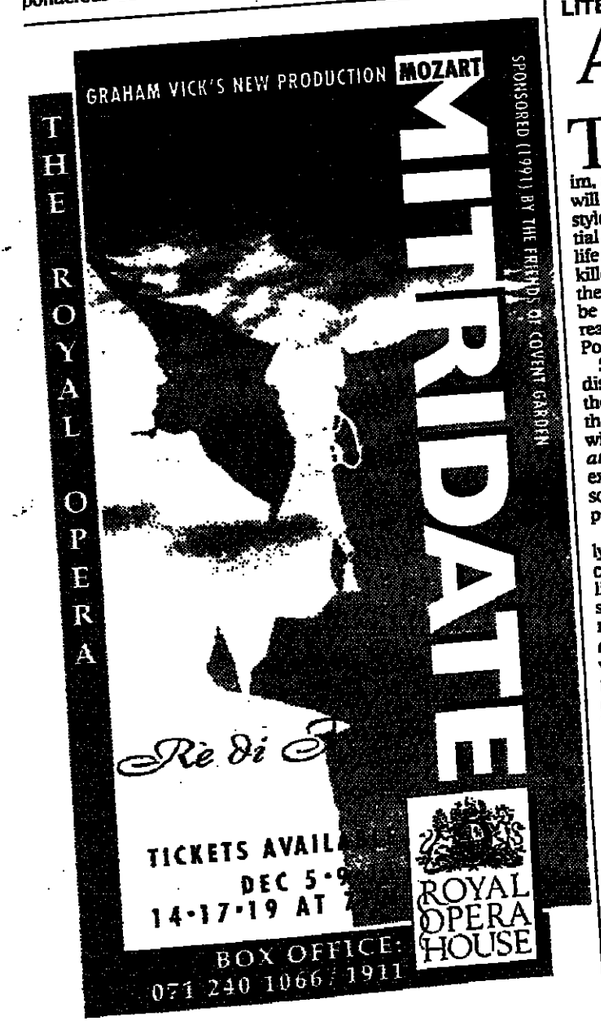
BRIEFING

Cards' message

IF YOU were wondering what happened to the much-vaunted "Artscard", the credit card that benefits the arts, take note: Midland Bank says it has contributed £250,000 to arts organisations through its Artscard scheme. The scheme was launched in 1989 by Midland in association with the Arts Council and provides a regular income to 86 arts organisations around Britain. Midland donates £5 the first time the credit card is used; for every £100 subsequently spent, the bank contributes 25 pence. Artscard income helps develop new productions and maintain theatres.

Last chance . . .

CAPERCAILLIE, the young, Gaelic-speaking group from the Western Isles, have won increasing acclaim on their current tour supporting Scottish confrères Runrig. In contrast to Runrig's gung-ho brand of predominantly electric Highland rock, Capercaillie's music is played on accordion, recorder, fiddle, bodhran and bouzouki; their songs are vivid evocations of the Celtic tradition. The tour ends at St George's Hall, Bradford (0274 752000) tonight; Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (081-748 4081) tomorrow and Saturday.



LITERATURE

Anthems for doomed youth

Literary historian Paul Fussell (right), talks to Clive Davis about how modern writers have altered attitudes to war

The true Poets must be truthful: that was Wilfred Owen's maxim, and in London tonight it will be celebrated in some style. Owen, the quintessential chronicler of the soldier's life in the first world war, was killed in action a week before the Armistice. His legacy is to be examined in a series of readings and lectures at the Poetry Society.

Sir Stephen Spender will discuss Owen's influence on the poets of the Thirties, while the novelist Pat Barker — whose recent novel, *Regeneration*, drew on the wartime experiences of Siegfried Sassoon — will talk about the psychology of battle.

But perhaps the most keenly awaited contribution will come from the American literary historian Paul Fussell, author of the award-winning study, *The Great War and Modern Memory*, who will assess Owen's international standing. Owen is included in Fussell's new book, *The Bloody Game: An Anthology of Modern War*. Spanning the period from the first world war to the Vietnam conflict, the book mixes celebrated fictional accounts, such as an extract from Hemingway's *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, with poetry, essays and letters from conscripts.

Owen is represented by five of his works, including "Dulce et Decorum Est" and "Insensibility". His status as a major poet is now unquestioned, of course, but Fussell notes that his reputation was initially slow to spread among a public which was more accustomed to the romanticism of Rupert Brooke.

"One reason why Owen is so popular today is that his work registers the late 20th century notion of soldiers and conscripts as victims," says Fussell, who is currently on sabbatical from the University of Pennsylvania. "Subsequent wars, such as Vietnam, have accustomed us to the idea that war is anti-heroic, and we have reached back to grab this poet from the past who ministers to our scepticism. The other poets from the Great War do it too, but not so acutely."

Originally compiled for an American audience, Fussell's anthology has a strong transatlantic bias: Soviet and Japanese contributors are absent, and the only German writers to be included are Erich Maria Remarque and Heinrich Böll. Some classic works — Joseph Heller's *Catch 22* is an obvious example — were omitted in order to take in more obscure items.



What comes across clearly is the contrast between the British and American traditions. The British contributions tend to be rich in allusions; the Americans deliver blunt, no-nonsense descriptions. Fussell's own favourite is Eugene Sledge's "With The Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa", an eyewitness account of the Marine Corps' battles in the Pacific.

Fussell is himself a second world war veteran. An infantry lieutenant, he was severely wounded in France in March 1945. After recuperating, he was waiting to be shipped off for service in the Pacific when news of Hiroshima was announced. He relived that period in a controversial essay, "Thank God For The Atom Bomb".

In *Wartime*, his 1989 book on the culture of the second world war, he cites Walt Whitman's comment on the human cost of the American Civil War: "The real war will never get in the books." Fussell readily admits that the same is true of his anthology: the experience of warfare — what Owen called "the pity of war" — remains incommunicable.

In fact, in the age of CNN and Hollywood blockbusters such as *Platoon*, it might seem that the written word no longer has much of a role to play in the depiction of war. Fussell is not of that view: "The movies made about Vietnam are all desperately trying to be realistic — it's all dirty words and lots of explosions. None of them can convey the boredom and the quiet fear. The worst thing about war was the sitting around and wondering what you were doing morally. That can't be developed by looking at the outside of someone's person: you've got to get inside the mind. You can't do that in a movie. It's got to be done in a novel or memoirs."

● *The Wilfred Owen reading takes place tonight at 7.30pm. at The Poetry Society, 21 Earls Court Square, London SW5 (071-373 7861). The Bloody Game: An Anthology of Modern War is published by Scribners at £19.95.*



Colourblind casting

Benedict Nightingale backs Equity's call for racial equality on stage

Rudolph Walker was recently asked to take the part of the father in a television play about a trip to the seaside. But just before rehearsals began, he got a phone call. "Terribly sorry," said a voice, "we've had to recast the whole thing." The trouble was not that Walker had been belatedly revealed as inept. On the contrary, he is known as a fine actor who has played Caliban at the Old Vic, Gower in *Pericles* for the RSC and Othello at the Young Vic. No, the trouble was that he is of West Indian extraction.

Almost all black performers have similar frustrations to report, which is why their trade union, Equity, last night held a mini-conference wryly titled "Does Colour Really Matter?" The main question for debate — how to improve their professional opportunities — has never been more urgent. Drama schools are turning out more and more actors from minority groups, some very gifted. The number of black or Asian actors on Equity's books has risen from 400 to nearly 1,200 in the last decade. What is to be done with all that skill, energy and need?

The idea of quotas, much touted in America, is undesirable and probably unworkable. Must Cameron Mackintosh really ensure that every fifth role in the next *Cats* is cast on the basis of colour rather than excellence? But there are less doctrinaire possibilities, though some of these are controversial too. Josette Simon, who is black as well as brilliant, has just played Vittoria in Webster's *White Devil* at the National. Paterson Joseph, black and highly promising, has been at the Barbican playing a Trojan, a Norwegian and a Spaniard: Shakespeare's Troilus, Haakon in Ibsen's *Pretenders*, and a fop in Molina's *Last Days of Don Juan*. What is to prevent commercial theatre and television producers following where the national companies have led?

Little but fear of the very prejudices they themselves are reinforcing by so regularly asking the likes of Walker to be pimps, drug-pushers or roadsweepers, while denying them more upmarket parts. There are admittedly some modern realistic plays, notably those where colour itself is an issue, in which more adventurous casting would be confusing. But why should middle-class characters almost always be played by white actors? Here, too, the National has recently set an example, casting Alphonsia Emmanuel as the young barrister in David Hare's *Murmuring Judges*.

Nobody could reasonably quarrel with that. What still causes argument is so-called "colour-blind casting". Clarence Smith was actually heckled by a tourist ("an insult to my country") when he played a black King of France in the RSC's recent *Lear*. Is the company right to persevere with a policy which this autumn has seen black players as Aumerle in *Richard II* and the eligible American girl in Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*?

Perhaps we were meant to notice the girl's colour subliminally, since the character she played was an outsider, highly critical of the spoiled British (this is known as "conceptual casting"). But it was of course almost as improbable that Victorian society should welcome a black American as that the Duke of York should have a black son. The audience was being asked to overlook their colour. It was, in short, invited to use its imagination — and why not?

Audiences of past eras found major shifts of setting or leaps of time unacceptably improbable. That is why Dryden transposed *Antony and Cleopatra* to an Alexandrian palace, reduced its span to a few hours, and called the result *All for Love*. We now laugh at such mistrust of the power of make-believe. So why should we be similarly literal-minded about colour? Stage convention is an adaptable, pliable thing; why not stretch it to embrace black faces in traditionally white roles?

The effort is small, the rewards can be great. Who would have wished to miss Josette Simon as the love-goddess based on Marilyn Monroe in Arthur Miller's *After the Fall*? All that is wanted is that producers feel freer, and directors become more willing, to cast parts as strongly as possible. With that, we may be surprised by some of the actors waiting in the wings. Without it, the result will be a shameful waste of British talent whose only error was to be black.

Eastern Europe now has the vote, but it has yet to learn tolerance, says Conor Cruise O'Brien

Democracy is not enough

Last weekend I was sitting in a glass palace in the North Carolina woods, with a storm going on outside. Rain was lashing the huge windows of the National Humanities Center, which was sponsoring a conference on "The Idea of a Civil Society".

The expression civil society was coined in the first half of the 19th century. It was used by both Tocqueville and Hegel, and has recently been revived in America. Tocqueville and Hegel did not mean quite the same thing when they used the same words, and nor did the conference participants. No doubt this is inevitable when a number of people are speaking out of their personal understanding of an abstract phrase.

The crispest definition offered was this: "Civil society is a space which allows citizens to associate in opposition to the state." Crisp, but not quite right. For most other speakers, I gathered that the idea of *opposition* to the state is not essential. It is more a question of there being a large and active sphere of association between the citizens, and of the state refraining, by mutual accord, from intervening in it.

As it is impossible to imagine an authoritarian state proceeding in any such manner, the emergence of civil society presupposes a framework of democratic institutions. But that doesn't mean that the expression is redundant. While authoritarian regimes cannot tolerate a civil society, there can easily be democratic governments which will not tolerate it either. For example, the democratically elected presidents of the Russian federation might oppress the non-Russian minorities.

There is a precedent in our own islands. For 52 years, from 1920 to 1972, Northern Ireland had its own freely elected parliament and government. Those democratic institutions used their powers to discriminate against a minority of the citizens. The abuses perpetrated were not as terrible as some have suggested, but they were real, and the resentments they caused are among the sources of the 20 years of violence.

The term civil society is useful therefore in helping to set standards for admission to the democratic club. Besides having free and fair elections, the candidate state must also have demonstrated its respect for civil society before it is admitted.

An assumption widely shared at the conference was that the only possible source of oppression is the state. The associations of citizens that make up civil society were assumed to be benign. But the Ku Klux Klan was an association of citizens, and it didn't stop the lynchings.

Then again, churches were among the associations named as making up civil society. Yet churches have oppressed people for centuries in the past, and are still oppressing them in many parts of the world. The Russian Orthodox church, the Roman Catholic church and Islam are now filling a large part of the vacuum created by the fall of communism. All these are authoritarian institutions with records of oppressive behaviour, and they are beginning to throw their weight about again.

The Roman Catholic church in Poland has recently demanded full control over the education not only of Catholic children, but of all children in the country. I hope Western diplomats are now explaining to the Polish government that if the demand is conceded, Poland will not be admitted to the European Community until the law enforcing it is rescinded.

Several of the most interesting contributions to the conference came from participants from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Many were humorous and even sparkling, but the general picture that emerged was sombre. A Polish speaker pointed out that only 40 per cent of the electorate had bothered to vote in the recent elections, and that the most successful party won only 13 per cent of the vote. "They have been given freedom and they are not really interested," an American commented.

A Hungarian speaker described the position in his country, the most prosperous in the region. Much of the capital invested in Eastern Europe has gone to Hungary, but the economy is deteriorating. Its GNP has been declining for three years. "The cake is shrinking." The speaker ended with the words: "If the countries of Eastern Europe can't overcome their economic difficulties in a short time I don't exclude the possibility of political rearrangement" — a euphemism for a coup.

The bleakest speech, perhaps inevitably, came from a Russian. He spoke of the despondency and cynicism of the people, who were attracted to democratic ideas because they thought a free market would fill the shops with goods. Now they are "fed up with the free market without having lived in it for a single day". Of those in authority, he said: "If they can't solve the economy, they can't legitimise themselves." If they fail, he said, they may be succeeded by "an authoritarian regime based on racial ideology". Such tendencies, he said, are disturbingly strong. The intelligentsia's influence has declined, he reported, and support for a Russian imperialist group which "wants to bring back Poland and Finland" has increased from 4 per cent to 20 per cent.

As I listened to him I thought of a meeting I had had in Canada earlier this month with Elena Bonner, Andrei Sakharov's widow. She spoke along the same lines, and quoted an Azerbaijani leader on the Armenians: "We must be prepared to emulate Stalin and Hitler."

The rain went on lashing the windows.

Why Montaigne matters

A new edition of the essays of a 16th-century mayor of Bordeaux is among the best guides to human nature, explains Bernard Levin



The other day, I was going on at frightful length about the countless translations of Villon: now I must turn to the *Essays* of Montaigne, a work which as far as I can discover has had fewer than 10 complete English versions in four centuries. Another was published last week, by M.A. Screech (Allen Lane, £35). He is a notable Montaigne scholar, and some time ago gave us a taste of his translation qualities with a version of what is by far the longest of the essays that comprise Montaigne's book, the *Apology for Raymond Sebond*. (Those coming new to Montaigne will find his endearing habit of wandering off the point illustrated to perfection in this extraordinary masterpiece.)

Biographies of Montaigne are few and slender, or at least they ought to be. To be Mayor of Bordeaux in the middle of the 16th century may well have been an onerous burden: probably it was, because Montaigne made clear that he was reluctant to take up the post (a post, I am sorry to say, that he abandoned when the plague came). That, and looking after his inheritance and a little diplomatic travelling comprise virtually all his activities. His home life was tranquil: he sired many sons, all of whom died early. He could easily have been missed altogether by history, but for his book.

But for his book. In that, he depicted human nature more exactly, more thoroughly, and more variously, than any man in all history other than Shakespeare; their lives overlapped for 38 years, and it is not at all unlikely that Shakespeare read Montaigne's book, first translated into English in 1603 (as you shall learn more fully in a few paragraphs' time).

To translate is always to lose: the goal is to lose as little as possible. (Which cynic was it who said *Les traductions sont comme les femmes; quand elles sont belles, elles ne sont pas fidèles, et quand elles sont fidèles, elles ne sont pas belles*?) How much has Dr Screech lost, and how much of it could he have avoided losing? His prose, I think, shows a great effort to ride his two horses — modernity and antiquity — at the same time, but the effort shows, and it shouldn't. Montaigne was the one of the most lucid and straightforward writers who ever lived, and damnably difficult though he is to translate, there should be no sign of effort. (One of Dr Screech's problems, which all translators of Montaigne face, is how to signal the different strata of the work, for Montaigne kept adding and changing, edition by edition: Screech signals the additions with huge capitals on almost every page, made worse by putting them in square brackets and worse still by then putting a massive space on both sides of the brackets, so that the whole book seems to have come down with measles.)

Never mind; a new translation of Montaigne will, happily, introduce him to another generation of readers, and in his Elysian Fields they can browse among an infinity of thoughts and ideas and comments on that odd creature called man.

And then I turned to the index. I have made so much uproar about inadequate indexes that you might think publishers would by now always provide proper ones, if only to ensure they are not pelted with ordure from the hand of Levin, the Indexer's Champion. Well, I give notice that I have just signed a new contract with my ordure-merchant, who assures me that his stocks are sufficient to last well into the next century. Screech's "index" is an abomination. He, a distinguished and experienced academic, offers an inexcusable insult to his author, so much so that he would have done better to dispense with an index altogether.

First, it is *nothing* but a list of proper names, whereas there is no writer in all history who cries out more loudly for an index to his ideas, his themes, his comments, his attitudes, his quotings, his self-descriptions, his musings, his experiences, his divagations, his jests. But that is not the worst. The wretched, dreary parade of names is anyway useless, because it is nothing but a string of undifferentiated page-numbers, with a pathetic sop in the form of bold-type numerals indicating "more than a passing reference".

Try him on Plato. There are 107 references, of which 18 are in bold type, and in neither category is there any further guidance — not a single word anywhere to break the flow of meaningless numbers. Alexander the Great is an even better example: 45 numbers, of which 14 are the supposedly more useful bold-type entries.

Not long ago I was excoriating the slubberdegullions of the OUP for such an index: my rage was heightened by my knowledge of what the OUP had once been: a byword for publishing integrity, meticulous care and a staff that missed nothing. Now, with this new Montaigne, I have to pour abuse on a firm which bears another of the greatest names in British publishing, Allen Lane.

What makes this *dégringolade* all the more shameful is that an index to Montaigne *has* been made, and the circumstances of its making deny Screech and his publisher their last feeble excuse, viz., the difficulties encountered in a work which by its very nature rarely keeps still long enough for an index-entry to be pinned to it. But before me lies an index admirable in itself, and the more remarkable for having been compiled so long ago that it appeared only about 150 years after indexes as we would recognise them came into being.

The first translation of Montaigne into English was published in 1603. It was done by that remarkable man John Florio (it is said that Holofernes, in *Love's Labour's Lost*, is a caricature of him). Florio lived up to his flowery name: he made very free with Montaigne's relaxed prose, torturing it into strange and colourful shapes. Still, he did it, and threw in an index for good measure. I have the two-volume Nonesuch edition: it is beautifully leather-bound, and the typography is wonderfully fitting. (What an enterprise Nonesuch was, with its unwavering standards and every aspect of every book lined up in its place to take another step towards perfection. When shall we see again such a band of brothers so determined to seek the best the world seeks? Well, not from the OUP or Allen Lane, that's for sure.)

Now see some of Florio's enchanting entries:

... Apparell ... Acquaintance ... Artificiall workes among brute creatures ... Authors of Bookes ... Bad, meanes for goods ... Beasts and men considered together ... Community in friendship ... Codpeeces ... Descriptions of ourselves ... Election *vide* Choice ... Ghostes represented by feare ... Gravell and stone in the kidneyes and bladder ... Licentiousnesse in Philosophers ...

But you get the idea. More to the point, you get the flavour of Montaigne. Indeed, if you had never heard of Montaigne, but simply read through Florio's index, would you not turn eagerly to the text of what you must by then be thinking an intriguing work?

Dear me, dear me: I came here this morning to write about a new translation of Montaigne, and I can hardly claim to have fulfilled my promise. I therefore feel obliged to return to the subject on Monday, when I assure you I shall do nothing but wander in and out of Montaigne's mind and report on what I find there.

P.S. Allen Lane can't even get their jacket-copy right. Who is this "Erasmus" claiming to have written *The Praise of Folly*?



...and moreover

Craig Brown

The House of Commons has always had a soft spot for its hecklers. Far from being feared and loathed, Tony Banks and Dennis Skinner are treated like mascots with retractable strings, ready to issue one of six amusing phrases as the moment demands.

They are seen as cuddly toys rather than rasping hyenas because their cackles reassure the others that the House is not quite as boring as they secretly fear. When I wrote the parliamentary sketch for *The Times* back in 1987, people at parties would ask me, "What was the mood of the House today, then?" For a long time, my answer was either "Dull" or "Even duller". Then I began to realise that, for politicians and veteran observers, the merest semi-colon placed in the middle of a two-hour speech, undetectable to the normal human ear, could signal tension mounting, a controversy raging, or even an uproar erupting.

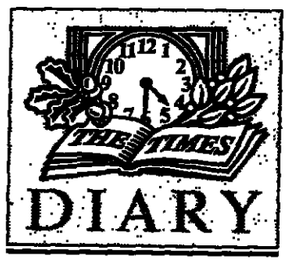
You may have noticed that there hasn't been a murmur from MPs against television since it arrived in the House. This is because television makes everything look so much more exciting. Television viewers of Mrs Thatcher's Maastricht speech will have noticed that the MPs sitting around her looked as bored as commuters on a delayed train, slouching, fidgety, never once appearing outraged, perturbed or even mildly interested. Yet if those same MPs had been watching the speech on television, their interest, I feel sure, would have been fully engaged.

Does anyone still believe that an event is best witnessed live rather than on television or radio? Over the years, I have been to one game of professional football, one afternoon at Wimbledon and one night at the greyhounds. At each one I found myself growing far more bored at far greater speed than if I had been watching on the box. At the greyhounds, I could tell that my feelings were widely shared. In the enclosed area of the stand, television screens to the side relayed the races that were taking place in front of us. Faced with the choice of watching the greyhounds directly or swivelling his head 45 degrees to watch them on television, every punter swivelled his head. It called to mind a cartoon in *Private Eye* some years ago. A father and son are at a football match. Everyone around them looks bored stiff. The son makes his thumbs and forefingers into a square and places them around his eyes. "If you do this, Dad" he says excitedly, "it's almost as good as telly!"

Television studio technicians, well used to watching history face-to-face as it unfolds before their eyes, must surely rank as among the most bored people alive, or alive-ish. However amusing or controversial an interviewee in a studio, he always seems much more amusing or controversial when transferred onto a screen. I was once in the theatre audience at the recording of a *Wogan* show. Wogan was talking to an actor no one recognised about a film no one had watched. Before long, we in the audience realised that if we looked slightly upwards we could see this dreary conversation taking place on the TV monitors. Suddenly it seemed chirpy and watchable.

Similarly, whenever I tune into *Start the Week* on Radio 4, I find it hard to switch off. I fast become immersed in the to-and-fro of conversation between moderately well-known people on slightly interesting topics. Yet whenever I have actually taken part in the programme, I have found it hard to keep my eyes open, and my fellow guests have spent their time glancing at their watches and making bored expressions at one another, wishing, like me, that they could be back home, listening to *Start the Week*.

On one of the many gloomy days recorded in John Cheever's recently published diaries, he laments his wife's lack of interest in him and her absorption in the television. "And I think that perhaps I should go on TV" he writes; "that if I approached her through the tube on the shelf above the sink I might win her interest and affection ..." Those with video-cameras will already have noted another extension of the long arm of television: however boring real life seems to be, if you film it and then play it back, everyone will sit transfixed. So to those who feel bored today, I would suggest they switch on the TV and do something interesting.



Driven to fury

JOHN PRESCOTT, Labour's thundering transport spokesman, was involved in another tearoom tiff at Westminster yesterday during which he abused a Tory MP and, according to astonished onlookers, "turned the air blue".

The trouble began when Prescott was a guest of honour at the dinner of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders at the Hilton Hotel. As Prince Michael of Kent, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, and Norman Willis of the TUC were walking through the dining-room door, they met Prescott marching out in the highest dudgeon.

Prescott — whose transport policies favour mass transit methods at the expense of the motoring interests of his hosts — felt he had been snubbed. Why had no place been kept for him at the top table, he complained bitterly. Officials from the society ran after him as he stormed out and attempted to explain that a bureaucratic mix-up had meant his name was omitted from the table plan, but not only was a space reserved for him at the table of honour but, if he had cared to look, a name card also prominently marked his place. Someone had sat in his place in error, but the interloper would be discreetly moved.

That, however, was not the end of it. When Tory MP Phillip Oppenheim indelicately mentioned the matter in the Commons, Prescott exploded again. The two ran into each other afterwards in the members' tearoom. "It was extraordinary," says Oppenheim. "I walked in and Prescott pounced. I have never heard so many four letter words. I gave up on the tea and went straight to the bar for a stiff brandy."

● *The sign language translator at the Royal Court Theatre in London is unused to being in the spotlight. But the interpreter's acting skills are tested to the limit in* Death and the Maiden, *starring Juliet Stevenson, when the word orgasm, which has no equivalent in sign language, is uttered on stage. Audiences are treated to a four-second display of flailing arms and much heaving of the chest to signify the earth moving and similar phenomena.*

House-trained

WHAT a master-stroke on the part of *The Spectator* to confer upon Dave Nellist the award of backbencher of the year. He arrived late and dressed in a green parka, but present and correct, nevertheless. Some mischievous soul had hit upon the idea of seating him next to Sir Peregrine Worsthorne. "I wonder they let him in the House. I wouldn't have him in any house of mine," the former *Sunday Telegraph* editor was heard to mutter.

Nellist was equal to the occasion, winning over even the most right-wing Tories. It was his first visit to the Savoy, he said, and probably his last. He quoted Gilbert and Sullivan on "apologetic statesmen of a compromising kind", leaving the "bloated capitalists", as he described the audience, to fill in their own names.

The greatest applause of the lunch greeted the Militant-supporting MP's explanation of why he was late. As he was leaving he had received "an emergency phone-call from the Finchley anti poll-tax union". On finding that her daughter Carol was one of eight million non-payers, he had heard that Mrs Thatcher had declared "it's a funny old world". Even Worsthorne was won over. "Nice speech," he purred, patting Nellist warmly on the shoulder.

But is it fine?

THE doyen of kitsch, Vladimir Tretchikoff, is refusing to be crowned king of the genre. The 84-year-old Russian-born billionaire, whose pictures of oriental beauties sell millions in Woolworths, has refused to allow his work to appear on the cover of new book on the subject. "I'm nothing to do with kitsch," he told Peter Ward, author of *Kitsch in Sync: A Consumer's Guide to Bad Taste* which is published tomorrow.



"The term is derogatory. My painting is art, fine art," insists the man who has probably sold even more prints than Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*. "It's sad he won't let us use his work," says Ward. "We had offered him the chance to be there with some of the all-time greats, including Dali. As someone once said: only art will break your heart, but it's kitsch will make you rich."

● *Does no one have a good word to say for Washington these days? Even Raymond Seitz, the US ambassador in London, who one might have thought was here to promote the place, was at it this week. Americans used to think it was England which stood for "arrogance, pomposity, corruption, imperiousness, immorality and exploitation", he told the Ends of the Earth club. Today Americans know the description fits Washington far better.*

Keys to wisdom

COMPUTERS are storming the calm of the cloister. In a project designed to provide megabytes for coenobites, the works of the early Christian saints are to be made available on compact disc for the first time next year. Clerics will be only a key stroke away from accessing the wisdom of the Venerable Bede, St Augustine, St Ambrose, and St Jerome.

Monks will be able to search the database for inspiration from scriptural citation. "Seminaries and monasteries have shown considerable interest in the project," says the manufacturer, Chadwyck Healey. "Even the Trappists have shown interest."

Commercially it is a gamble, they concede — few in religious orders have yet mastered the intricacies of skimming through CD-roms on their PCs. The hand of God moves in mysterious ways; His message via a keyboard may prove more comprehensible.

OPEN TO DOUBT

Sunday trading is a subject infested with cant. Supermarket chiefs have inveighed against a law that allowed *Playboy* to be sold but not the Bible. Small traders have unblushingly franked the arguments of the shopworkers' union against Sunday opening, to avoid competition. Law enforcement is no less humbug-ridden. Both sides of the House of Commons were yesterday in stern moralistic mood. Labour and Tory members alike rose to demand that the Attorney General intervene to uphold a law which they refuse to reform and which local authorities are understandably failing to enforce.

The existing law is both an ass and a mess. Last May, the House of Lords decided to seek guidance from the European Court of Justice on whether or not the Shops Act, cornerstone of the Sunday trading restrictions, offended against European Community law. The Court of Appeal had just decided that any local authority which injuncted a store against opening would be liable to pay its losses should the European court later overturn those restrictions. In October, the High Court threw out magistrates' court decisions against certain Sunday traders until the European court ruled.

The Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, sought to brush off these difficulties. He and Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister, managed to get the worst of all worlds. They deplored the stores' action and said they were "liable to criminal proceedings", but are leaving it to local councils to decide on prosecution. In effect, ministers are turning a blind eye to illegal activity by passing the buck. They want to leave a reform in the law until the European court has ruled.

That, of course, is only an excuse. Ministers know that Sunday trading divides party and Parliament. They have watched attempts to find a workable alternative to the present law, attempts which fail to bridge the divide. All they want now is for the issue to go away until after a general election.

The principled stand of Marks and Spencer and Waitrose — which will not open — is admirable. But they rely on one strict interpretation of the law. Sainsbury's yesterday decided to trade on the basis that the law is effectively a dead letter. In view of the Attorney-General's remark yesterday, this is a hard position to maintain — though an understandable one.

Many argue that the law has no part in these matters, and should be repealed. Individual shops would then decide if they wished to open; individual shoppers would decide if they wish to patronise them. If enough customers wanted to "keep Sunday special", Sunday opening would be a failure. In practice, matters would surely settle down as they have in Scotland and in much of Europe. Enough shops will be open to supply all reasonable needs, but not enough to make Sunday an orgy of consumption.

But the law cannot be left simply to fall into disuse. Each trader's decision affects the outcome for others and many are reluctant to flout a criminal law. From the supermarkets' point of view, one which opens when its rivals remain closed seizes an advantage. Whether or not Sunday opening should be permitted is, therefore, a matter best resolved by legislation, with Parliament mediating between finely balanced arguments, and closely contested interests. It does not follow that the law should permit opening nationally, or not at all. The balance of the argument may vary from one locality to another.

A rural community may be church or family centred, and thus lean against Sunday opening in favour of a quiet life. An urban community may prefer wider choice, paying the price in terms of hustle and bustle. There is a strong case that decisions should be made locally, on the principle of subsidiarity. This could be done by local plebiscite, using broadly the system by which Wales has resolved its longstanding disagreement about the Sunday opening of public houses. What is certain is that the present confused and chaotic state of affairs cannot be left even through to Christmas. Nothing could be more damaging to the reputation of Parliament and the rule of law.

SHAMIR SHOVES BACK

The Israeli cabinet's less than enthusiastic response to America's summons to a second round of Middle East peace talks in Washington next Wednesday will irritate the US administration, which has insisted that its invitation is non-negotiable. It is mild by the standards of Yitzhak Shamir. Time was when an invitation issued without prior consultation just before an Israeli prime minister was due to meet President Bush would have been summarily rejected for that reason alone. Yet the Israeli cabinet has merely asked for an extra few days' grace before the talks begin, and for consultation with Washington on the rules of play.

Yesterday's manoeuvres are largely for domestic consumption. Mr Shamir is showing Israel's right wing that he is not going to be pushed around by Washington and will not allow Mr Bush's desire for a settlement before the American presidential elections to dictate the pace of talks. But he is also showing ordinary Israelis that, however determined to accept nothing on trust, he will keep the ball in play. The bottom line is that, "out of respect for the US", Israel will go.

The Americans have indeed forced the pace. This reflects the determination of the American secretary of state, James Baker, not to lose momentum after Madrid. The invitation cuts through what could have been interminable Israeli-Arab haggling over the location for further talks. In Mr Shamir's eyes, the Washington venue pre-empts this decision in the Arabs' favour.

In addition the Americans have put forward detailed if hypothetical suggestions for carrying forward Israel's separate bilateral negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. These not only explicitly include "land for peace" trade-offs but pass over another point at issue: whether these talks should involve substance at all or should first, as Israel wants, settle procedural disagreements and commit the Arab delegations to direct talks on Middle Eastern soil.

The Americans are likely to give Israeli efforts to lay down conditions as short a shrift as they have given the Palestinian delegation's demand that its Palestine Liberation Organisation advisers be granted US visas in order to attend. Mr Baker cannot, however, have expected Mr Shamir to accept without cavil. Madrid has not softened the Israeli prime minister's views of his Arab adversaries. In Maryland last week, he spoke of an "unstable, undemocratic, militaristic region where force is king, terrorism is endemic and hatred of Israel universal". But America is offering, and is alone able to offer, what Israel has sought for four decades: bilateral talks with all its neighbours.

Mr Baker has calculated that Mr Shamir's personal engagement in the Madrid talks commits him as firmly as the most dovish Israeli to look for a deal. Mr Shamir saw in person the public relations triumph of the Palestinians in Madrid. He is realist enough to know that Israel is now competing with the Arabs for international public opinion, and that it cannot rely on the power of the pro-Israel lobby in America if it tries Mr Baker's patience too far.

In an Israeli poll published on Monday, 78 per cent said the government should go to Washington. Most Israelis now desperately want talks which lead to peace, but not at any price. Mr Shamir's hardline rhetoric reflects his personal convictions, but is not without political astuteness. Like Menachem Begin before him, Mr Shamir is critical to the negotiations because he is trusted to cut a tough deal which protects Israel's security.

Like Syria's President Assad, he knows that at this stage a street politician does not hint at concessions. Yet his refusal to talk to the PLO did not prevent talks with PLO-directed negotiators in Madrid, and these made more headway than expected. Mr Shamir needs the Americans, but his decision to involve himself directly in the negotiations may yet prove the key to the breakthrough Mr Baker seeks.

PARLIAMENTARY MAN

Pitt. Disraeli, Gladstone, Lloyd George, Churchill, Bevan, Macleod — doubtless each would have been named Parliamentarian of the Year if the award had existed in his day. They all enhanced the reputation of Parliament, keeping it at the heart of British public life. They made speeches and interventions which changed the direction of political debate, pushed new ideas to the forefront, harried the government of the day, and even on occasion brought it down.

Who can claim as much today? A year ago, Sir Geoffrey Howe made a speech triggering the challenge that ended Margaret Thatcher's leadership. Immediately after she had resigned as party leader, his victim gave one of the most sterling performances of her career. Both speeches were memorable, however, not because of their oratory but because of the external context in which they were given. And they were rarities. Most speeches veer between the mumbling recital of the official brief and shrill partisanship.

The televising of the Commons, long overdue though it was, has not improved the skills of parliamentarians. Ministers and Opposition spokesmen struggle for a catchy phrase to fit the sound bite demands of television news. These changes have not made any easier the task of the judges of the annual Highland Park-*Spectator* awards. They look for the MP, normally on the front benches, who has attracted most attention for getting under the skin of his opponents. Recent recipients include John Smith, Nigel Lawson, Edward Heath and Douglas Hurd.

As the best of the contemporary contenders, few would quarrel with yesterday's choice of Robin Cook, Labour's health spokesman. As the award citation said, "he has succeeded in putting the health issue at the top of the political agenda." He has forced William Waldegrave, the health secretary, on the defensive. But it is also a measure of how the Commons has changed that such as Mr Cook should be so highly rated. His debating talents, though formidable, are somewhat one-dimensional. The citation itself offers the backhanded praise: "at the dispatch box he is indefatigable, relentless and pungent, possesses the true parliamentarian's knack of being untroubled by fact, and seems not to feel bound by the Queensberry Rules." Mr Cook is feared by his opponents, but has not always won their respect, let alone affection.

Parliamentary success has long ceased to be a sufficient condition for political success. The great club that is party government holds its vital conclaves behind the scenes. John Major was never and will never be a great parliamentarian, nor will Neil Kinnock. But performance can still enhance some reputations, and cost others dear. Good performances in the Commons chamber helped push to the fore Malcolm Rifkind, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. As Mr Cook said yesterday in accepting the award, the strength of Parliament is that it is a place where MPs are stretched. That is more than can be said of the lifeless debates in the American Congress or in most of the other parliaments of Europe.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Telephone 071-782 5000

When a 'lifer' will not confess

From the Chairman of the Association of Members of Boards of Visitors

Sir, You report (November 26) the successful appeal of Winston Silcott — yet another life-sentence prisoner to have his verdict reversed. Wider issues than the circumstances of conviction are raised by these cases.

Once a life-sentence prisoner enters the system, he gradually progresses through his "career" to lower security categories towards his eventual release. However, at a group meeting of life prisoners held early this year in Nottingham prison, the Home Office representative present made it clear that unless a lifer "tackles" his offending behaviour, which obviously necessitates admitting his guilt for his crime, he will not advance through the system.

Thus, a lifer who has not committed a crime is unlikely ever to be released: whereas the guilty, who openly admit their crime, will progress through the system rapidly.

Sir, should we really expect the innocent to compromise themselves by confessing simply in order to get released, even though they may have an appeal outstanding for many years?

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN ELLIS, Chairman,
The Association of Members of Boards of Visitors (Ambov),
2 Arnold Lane,
Gedling, Nottinghamshire.
November 26.

Duty solicitors

From Mr Winston Roddick, QC

Sir, That a confession statement should be demonstrably reliable is critically important to both the prosecution, who want to secure a safe conviction, and the accused, who needs to be protected against dishonest policemen.

The presence of the accused's solicitor during the interviews at the police station is a sure way of demonstrating the reliability of the confession.

Will someone, therefore, please listen to the solicitors of Devon who are reported (Law Times, November 26) to have voted to withdraw from the 24-hour duty solicitor scheme which services police stations because of the inadequacy of their remuneration by the legal aid scheme.

Yours faithfully,
WINSTON RODDICK,
10 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.
November 26.

Field surveys

From the President of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers

Sir, I understand that Ordnance Survey are considering omitting individual field identification parcel numbers and acreages from future editions of their 1:2500 National Grid maps on the grounds of cost. This move should be resisted.

The maps provided by the OS are the envy of many countries. Virtually every transaction involving agricultural land is by reference to the parcel number and acreage which the maps contain and this information is almost invariably accepted by all parties as being correct. Difficulty, disagreement and possible litigation will result from its omission from future maps.

I urge all involved with land, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Trust, professional bodies, the drainage boards and many more, to make representations to Ordnance Survey at Southampton, pressing them in the strongest possible terms not to abandon this excellent aspect of their work.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY HARRISON,
President, Central Association of Agricultural Valuers,
Howkins and Harrison
(Chartered surveyors),
7/11 Albert Street,
Rugby, Warwickshire.

Cash for theatres?

From Mr William Douglas Home

Sir, Assuming that it can still do so now that it is fitted with a pacemaker, my heart leapt within me when I read (report, November 8) that the Chancellor has promised an extra £27 million to the Arts Council.

My elation is due to the fact that for some years now my faith in human nature has continued to sustain me in the hope that the one-sided situation now prevailing in the theatre might one day be put right and that if the Arts Council were to pass this windfall onto the commercial theatre, it will be the first time it has been fairly treated since the subsidy of the arts began.

It would also, incidentally, create a situation in which — as does every West End manager — it will receive a fair return on any profits which might be accrued as a result of its investment (an experience which, as I understand it, has not been the lot of the Arts Council hitherto).

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
WILLIAM DOUGLAS HOME.
Derry House,
Kilmeston, Hampshire.
Novmeber 19.

Business letters, page 27
Sports letters, page 32

Dr Carey, Rushdie and the Muslims

From the President of the English Centre of International PEN and others

Sir, While not arguing with the Archbishop of Canterbury's "passionate conviction" that Christians should be prepared to die for their own and others' right to belief (report, November 25), we would ask him to denounce, with equal passion, the right of any religious leader to pass a death sentence for blasphemy on the citizen of another country and then, with the promise of heavenly rewards, incite his followers to commit murder.

Perhaps Dr Carey should also express horror at the $2 million bounty offered last March by Hassan Sanei of the 15 Khordad Foundation, an organisation operating with the full authorisation of the government of Iran, and call upon the Christian and Muslim communities in Britain to condemn this offer of blood money to gangsters and hit men.

With the release of the hostages and the desire of Iran for a closer economic relationship with this country, surely the time has come for our spiritual and political leaders to combine in demanding the withdrawal of both bounty and fatwah. Calls for tolerance, especially from the literary community, are bound to fall on deaf ears while a writer, his translators and publishers are all under sentence of death.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD HARWOOD, President,
FRANCIS KING (Vice-President),
ANTHONY BABINGTON,
JOSEPHINE PULLEIN-THOMPSON
(General Secrerary),
English Centre of International PEN,
7 Dilke Street, Chelsea, SW3.
November 25.

From Dr Henry Hardy

Sir, In his extremely interesting article ("Break hatred's chains", November 22) the Archbishop of Canterbury suggests that the only genuine tolerance is that which is displayed towards those who differ from us about our deepest convictions. Later he affirms (surely rightly) that Christians are committed to the uniqueness and universality of their beliefs. The tolerance of rival religions open to a Christian is thus the tolerance of those who are mistaken but may yet come to see the light.

This is a pale and patronising sort of tolerance beside the really demanding variety, namely tolerance of those whose beliefs, though incompatible with our own, we nevertheless recognise as having an equal claim to validity. A radical tolerance of this kind is required of the pluralist who believes that there can be no unique answer to the great moral questions, and that any attempt to provide one, however "tolerantly" conducted, must therefore be misconceived.

The universalism of religions like Christianity rules out a pluralist tolerance of this kind as a matter of definition. But without it, there is no trustworthy bulwark against coercive proselytism of the kind that the Archbishop candidly points to in his Church's history.

This, to my mind, is one of the strongest cases against universalist creeds of all kinds.

Yours etc.,
HENRY HARDY.
22 Norham Road, Oxford.
November 22.

From Mrs Patricia Higton

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury has compared the reaction of Christians against the film, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, to that of Muslims against Salman Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*. However, church leaders did *not* issue an order to Christians to murder the producer.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. HIGTON,
Time Ministries International,
Emmanuel Church,
Main Road, Hawkwell,
Hockley, Essex.
November 24.

From Mrs Doreen Davie

Sir, According to the "senior churchman close to Lord Runcie" whose view you quote (report, November 25), "the difference between [Dr Carey] and Bob [Lord Runcie] is that if Bob had a bit of trouble he would go to the Athenaeum and talk to Willie Whitelaw, Roy Jenkins or Geoffrey Howe".

I thank God that we now have an archbishop who seeks guidance on his knees, rather than in the Athenaeum.

Yours sincerely,
DOREEN DAVIE,
Omega Cottage,
4 High Street, Silverton,
Nr Exeter, Devon.
November 25.

From the Reverend Julian Sullivan

Sir, If Christ had appointed a team of advisers to sanitise his public statements (as apparently some would recommend to Dr Carey) we would never have had a gospel worthy of his name.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN SULLIVAN,
St Mary's Vicarage,
42 Charlotte Road,
Sheffield 1, South Yorkshire.
November 25.

Sunday trading

From Mr E. J. Hart

Sir, The law is the law, at least I thought so, until I read (report, November 27) that supermarkets intend to open for business on four pre-Christmas Sundays. "Sue us and be damned", it seems is their arrogant challenge.

Plenty has been said about the poll tax non-conformists who, while unquestionably law-breakers, included many genuinely not capable of conforming.

The fines imposed, if any, will be trifling. The law is indeed an ass, and the sooner this one is no longer capable of being mocked the better. Incredibly, Scotland for all its Sabbatarianism seems free of this asininity.

Yours very truly,
E. J. HART,
Camis Eskan Coachhouse,
Helensburgh,
Dunbartonshire.
November 27.

From Mr Ian Clark

Sir, As a former chairman of a national retail chain I am in favour of a compromise reform package that extends shop weekday trading hours and allows Sunday opening at peak trading times of the year. This already happens quite legally in many holiday resorts. But only if this freedom is allowed to *all* retailers in an agreed way, and if the rights of shop staff to reasonable family life are protected.

American supermarket chiefs I have discussed the issue with over the years believe that most Sunday trading is loss-making, and they only continue it because of competitive pressures. Eventually the shopper loses out through higher prices.

Yours sincerely,
IAN CLARK,
4 The Crest, Surbiton, Surrey.
November 26.

From Mr J. F. Johnson-Munday

Sir, So the major supermarkets do not approve of the law on Sunday trading. This is obviously a matter of principle with them and not merely grubby economic greed. I presume, therefore, that they will take the same principled stand on other matters, and support individual consumers who also wish to ignore the law.

At least, I hope that this is the case, as I am looking forward openly to stealing my Christmas turkey from the supermarket this Sunday.

I am, yours faithfully,
J. F. JOHNSON-MUNDAY,
The Common Room,
Cranleigh School,
Cranleigh, Surrey.
November 27.

From Mr Duncan Rodgers

Sir, If the major multiple supermarkets are going to be selective as to which laws of the land they will and will not acknowledge in the weeks before Christmas, perhaps they should give guidance as to the policy they will adopt toward Sunday shoplifters. Will they really have the audacity to ignore the obvious double standard and still haul all those so apprehended before the local beak seeking justice and punishment through the courts?

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN RODGERS,
33 Bridge Street, Hereford.
November 27.

Future of Trident

From Air Commodore A. Mackie

Sir, The changes in world power, as Michael Evans described them in his analysis of Trident (report, November 22) are actual and inescapable. The threats and uncertainties which Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin represents as grounds for treating the case for Trident as unanswerable (letter, November 25) are largely hypothetical and avoidable.

What matters about the Gulf war is not whether it was foreseen or not but its lesson for the four nuclear powers whom Saddam Hussein defied by invading Kuwait: that they are no better at deterring aggression than non-nuclear powers. The elements of a remedy lie in the unilateral reductions already made by the two main nuclear powers, a reinvigorated United Nations and the enhanced verification techniques now on offer.

As to the weaponry itself, Lord Lewin defines the true minimum deterrent as consisting in one missile delivering a single warhead. He thereby removes any excuse for the other 63 warheads carried by the Polaris system, let alone for the 512 of which Trident will dispose. His final argument for Trident is the apologia traditionally reserved for dubious weapons systems — that most of their costs have already been met.

Trident's one real merit, it seems, is as a prop for nationalistic vainglory of the kind reasserted by Mr Churchill during the recent defence debate in his description of Britain as "a nation that aspires to be the world's greatest policeman, second only to the United States".

When will we grow down?

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MACKIE
(Vice-President),
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7.
November 27.

Civilisation as we know it

From Mr A. R. Bryan

Sir, What nation today could be called civilised? Bernard Levin (November 21) circles around the answer but, I think, doesn't quite land on it.

But first a definition. I prefer Kenneth Clark's: civilisation is a state of mind where it is thought desirable for a naval hospital to look like that at Greenwich and for its inmates to dine in a splendidly decorated hall.

The ceiling of that hall deriving from the metropolitan glories of Roman baroque (cf the Sistine Chapel), I move easily to the conclusion that the nation that can truly be called civilised is the Vatican City. Where else do the things of the body and of the mind and of the spirit come together in such natural harmony?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. BRYAN,
54 Clive Road, SW19.
November 22.

From Dr A. M. Calverd

Sir, Bernard Levin need look no further than the Republic of Ireland in his search for civilisation.

Certainly, Italy has a brazen charm and *joie de vivre* that dulls some grief, but I suggest our nearer cousins fare better: the gulf between poverty and wealth is less obscene and more easily crossed to the west.

The civilising influence of Ireland, on tweed, whiskey and English literature, has been benign but thorough. As for tolerance, where else do natives study an extra language, that is not demanded of foreigners, to enter their own universities?

Yours sincerely,
ALAN CALVERD,
35 Badgers,
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire.
November 21.

From Mr B. Vibert

Sir, I offer you Denmark where, during the last war, they kept their Jewish citizens out of the clutches of Herr Himmler by shipping them across to Sweden.

Yours faithfully,
B. VIBERT,
School House, Preston,
Nr Uppingham, Leicestershire.
November 22.

From Mr P. W. D. Hatt

Sir, Belgium is the answer. It has the cuisine (French cooking with German portions, good beer), the art (Rubens, Magritte), the places (Bruges, Antwerp, the Ardennes), the history (Waterloo), the "politically correct" governmental attitudes (consistent support for Nato, EC and internal devolution), the famous citizens (Poirot, Sax) and the languages (three official ones but everyone speaks English). And it is so much easier to get to than is Italy.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. D. HATT,
39 Kingsmead Road, SW2.
November 21.

From Mrs Valerie Caless

Sir, There is a misprint in Bernard Levin's column: "There is nothing wrong with Botswana apart from the fact that I have no idea where it is." This should presumably have read "There is nothing wrong with me apart from the fact that I have no idea where Botswana is."

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE CALESS,
3 The Grove,
Barham, Canterbury, Kent.

From Mr Christopher Whitamore

Sir, I am normally prepared to regard a started glass as half full, but Bernard Levin takes this principle too far. Shouldn't it be "least uncivilised"?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WHITAMORE,
Russet House, Woodend,
Nr Towcester, Northamptonshire.

Popping the weasel

From Mr R. L. Dunlop

Sir, I am intrigued by Philip Howard's article (... and moreover, November 23) on "Pop goes the weasel". My wife and I, since childhood in different parts of the country, both understood "weasel" to be an old name for the gold chain of a pocket watch — which was regularly pawned.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN DUNLOP,
Ashwell Grange, Baldock,
Hertfordshire.
November 25.

From Mr John A. G. Stent

Sir, Some 70 years ago, my grandfather told me that "weasel" was a north country dialect word for a leather purse which was closed by two strips of spring-steel. To open the purse, one pressed on the ends of the strips. When pressure was released, the purse closed with a "pop".

Yours etc.,
JOHN STENT,
Two Hatchlands,
Huntsbottom Lane,
Liss, Hampshire.
November 23.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 27: His Excellency Dr Shaya Mohsin Mohamed was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Yemen.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Mohamed Hazza Mohamed Ali (Minister Plenipotentiary), Mr Kassim Abdulrab Hariz (Counsellor), Mr Idress Ahmed Al-Shamman (Counsellor), Mr Hani Ali Saleem Al-Beedh (First Secretary), Mr Abdullah Mohamed Ali Al-Montser (Third Secretary).

Sir David Gillmore, Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was present with The Queen.

Mrs Shaya was also received by The Queen.

Mr John Sharland was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Republic of the Seychelles.

Her Majesty also received Mrs Sharland.

The Queen received the Bishop of Bath and Wells, The Right Reverend J. L. Thompson, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by the Right Hon Kenneth Baker, MP (Secretary of State for the Home Department), and did homage upon his appointment.

The Bishop of Chelmsford (Clerk of the Closet to the Queen) and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Twelfth Man, The Lord's Taverners, presented the 1991 County Championship Trophy to Essex County Cricket Club at Buckingham Palace.

This evening, His Royal Highness, Honorary Member and Past President, attended the Annual General Meeting of the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, Westminster.

Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN was in attendance.

The Princess Royal this morning visited Lancashire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lancashire (Mr Simon Towneley).

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, visited the Save the Children Shop in Preston and, as Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, attended a Conference on "Disabled School Leavers — the Transition to Adult Living", Wellington Park Masonic Lodge, Leyland.

This afternoon The Princess Royal visited Merseyside and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Henry Conon). Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, visited the Save the Children Shop in Southport.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, The Butler Trust, visited Her Majesty's Prison, Liverpool.

This evening The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attended the British Olympic Appeal Businessmen's Dinner at Liverpool Moat House Hotel.

Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 27: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Army Medical Corps, this morning opened the rebuilt Headquarters of 217 (City of London) General Hospital RAMC(V) in Kennington.

The Lady Angela Oswald, Sir Alastair Aird and Captain Conolly Morris-Adams were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 27: The Prince of Wales gave a dinner for sponsors of his Business Leaders' Forum.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 27: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at the Annual Dinner of the British Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta which was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London W1.

The Hon Mrs Wills and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 27: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Honorary President, the Somme Association Ltd, today received the Rt Hon the Viscount Brockeborough. Dr Ian Adamson and Councillor David Campbell, Officers of the Association.

The Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a reception and presented the 1991 Torch Trophy Trust Awards at Simpson (Piccadilly), London W1.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 27: The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this morning attended an Executive Committee Meeting at the Marine Society, Lambeth Road, London SE1.

His Royal Highness this evening attended the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators' Annual Trophies and Awards Banquet at Guildhall.

Commander Roger Walker, RN was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent today presented the Whitbread Community Care Awards at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 27: Princess Alexandra today visited Hampshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, opened the Light Infantry Museum and met members of the Salamanca Band who served in the Gulf, at Peninsula Barracks, Winchester.

Later Princess Alexandra, Vice-Patron of the YWCA, visited Milford House, 71 Christchurch Road, Winchester.

Her Royal Highness subsequently opened the Rehabilitation Department Building at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Dr G.S.G. Beveridge, vice-chancellor, The Queen's University, Belfast, 58; Lady Bottomley, 85; Vice-Admiral Sir David Brown, 64; Mr Geoffrey Clarke, artist and sculptor, 67; Sir David Croom-Johnson, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 77; Mr F.C.H. du Preez, rugby player, 56; Mr Terence Frisby, playwright, actor and producer, 59; the Right Rev M.G. Hare Duke, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, 66; Miss Enid Lakeman, editorial consultant, Electoral Reform Society, 88; Lord Macdonald, 44; Mr Keith Miller, cricketer, 72; General Sir David Mostyn, 63; Miss Dervla Murphy, author, 60; Sir Idris Pearce, chartered surveyor, 58; the Right Rev Patrick Rodger, former Bishop of Oxford, 71; Sir Lewis Robertson, industrialist, 69; Mr H.S. Tate, chairman, London, FOX, 60.

Luncheons

Tallow Chandlers' Company
The Lady Mayoress presented the Tallow Chandlers' Medals and Awards to BP Apprentices and Young Researchers at a Luncheon at the Tallow Chandlers' Hall yesterday. The Master, Sir Peter Cazalet, Wardens and Court also received Mr R. Horton, Chairman, BP, and other representatives of BP at the Hall.

Carlton Club
Mr John Selwyn Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club. Sir William van Straubenzee, chairman of the committee, presided and Mr Robert Feld also spoke.

Viscount Tonypandy

Viscount Tonypandy, as Patron of the Hammersmith Hospital Fund for the Elderly, will be entertaining guests at a reception and luncheon to launch this charity at a private function at the House of Lords on Thursday, December 5, 1991.

The charity has been set up to sponsor research into the problems of the elderly and to provide recreational facilities for the elderly patients at Hammersmith and Acton Hospitals. All enquiries about the fund to Mrs Linda O'Brien, Clerk/Trustee, Division of Geriatric Medicine, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London, W12.

Reception

Torch Trophy Trust
The Duchess of Gloucester presented the Torch Trophy Trust Awards for 1991 yesterday evening at a reception held at Simpson (Piccadilly) Limited. She was received by Mr E.A. Croker, Chairman of the Trust and Mr R.K. Campbell-Walter, Retail Director of Simpson (Piccadilly) Limited. Among those present were:

Lord Aberdare, Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley, Mr and Mrs Anthony Andrews, Mrs R.K. Campbell-Walter, Mrs E.A. Croker, Mr and Mrs J.G.M. Hart, Mr and Mrs C.C. Janes, Dr and Mrs D.W.C. Smith and Mr D. Ufton.

Institution of Civil Engineers

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, last night inspected extensive modernisation at their headquarters, 1 Great George Street, Westminster, accompanied by Mr Robin Wilson, President, and Mr Roger Dobson, Director General. Members of the Executive Committee, development donors and trustees attended.

The British Library

Owing to industrial action, the Round Reading Room and North Library will close daily at 5.00 pm and all day Saturday until further notice. Other British Library reading rooms while remaining open may have a restricted service. For further information call 071-323 7683.

Bilton Grange School, Rugby

The Governors of Bilton Grange School, Rugby, announce the appointment of Mr Quentin Edwards, MA (Oxon), a Housemaster at Bradfield College, to succeed the Hon R. T. Fisher, MA (Cantab), as Headmaster from September 1992.

Concert

Woolf Seddon, Solicitors, hosted a concert last night at the Royal Academy of Music by the Academy's String Orchestra, conducted by Mr David Strange. The concert was followed by a buffet supper. Speakers were Sir John Tooley, who was guest of honour, Sir David Lumsden, Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, and Mr Anthony Ansell, partner of Woolf Seddon.

OBITUARIES

SIR TERENCE MORRISON-SCOTT

Sir Terence Morrison-Scott, DSC, director of the British Museum (Natural History), 1960-68, died on November 25 aged 83. He was born in Paris on October 24, 1908.



BEFORE taking over the running of the British Museum (Natural History) in 1960, Terence Morrison-Scott had been director of the Science Museum from 1956 to 1960. He thus had the rare distinction of heading two of the nation's most prestigious storehouses of knowledge, artefacts and specimens. He was a key figure in the drafting of the British Museum Act (1963) and in its passage through Parliament. In particular he participated in the establishment of a board of trustees related to natural history. He was also a prime mover in retaining — during his tenure — the title of British Museum (Natural History). Although the museum is now known simply as the Natural History Museum, he favoured retaining the old title because of the important part that the natural history collections (many dating back to 1753) played in the original foundation of the national museum.

At a critical time in the museum's development he established an easy and efficient relationship with the trustees and cultivated a fruitful and happy partnership between their chairman, Professor C. F. A. Pantin, and himself as director.

Morrison-Scott recognised that the primary need was to develop the research side of the museum's work which utilised most of its funds. As a result, in 1966-67, the museum ceased to compete for funds with other museums and art galleries. Instead it was classed with research councils, receiving its financial allocation from the Civil Service budget on the recommendation of the Council for Scientific Policy. On Morrison-Scott's initiative the council considered and approved a long overdue programme of new buildings for the scientific departments. This enabled the bird section, whose large collections had for more than 30 years been "temporarily" accommodated in the entomology block, to be moved to a purpose-designed building in the museum's out-station at Tring, and for the large and important collections of insects at Tring to be transferred to London for incorporation in the national collections there. On the South Kensington site an east wing linked to the Geological Museum was built to accommodate the department of palaeontology and a tower block was built as an extension for the library and to accommodate other sections of the museum that were in desperate need of more space. With his background of experience of the needs of the departments Morrison-Scott gave effective support to their requirements for special cabinets for the systematic curation of the various departmental national collections, for the provision of optical and other equipment and, by no means least, for the increase of the scientific staff to provide cover for the main fields of natural history and a better balance between research and support staff. Certainly in Morrison-Scott the museum benefited by having as its director one who, in addition to having an innate administrative capacity, had served his apprenticeship in the place where he ultimately took charge.

Terence Charles Stuart Morrison-Scott was the only son of Lieut-Col R. C. S. Morrison-Scott, DSO. The implications in his second two baptismal names were borne out in himself for, like his illustrious name-sake of the mid-seventeenth century he had the same distinguished bearing, stature, good looks, charm of manner, assurance and a self-admitted arrogance that was but a facade behind which lay a quite unwarranted intellectual modesty and a warmth of sympathy that endeared him to those privileged to be his friends.

He went to Eton and from there to Christ Church Oxford. He studied zoology at the Royal College of Science, London, and in 1935 graduated BSc, ARCS, with first class honours. In 1952 he received his DSc from London University.

After a brief time as an assistant master at Eton, in 1935 he became a member of the scientific staff in the mammal section of the museum's zoology department. Even before the beginning of the war, 1939, he had started the flow of his original contributions to knowledge of the mammalia. Rodents from British Guiana, shrews and voles from Jersey and Guernsey, a supposedly extinct Cuban *Capromys*, the giant panda, mammals collected by St John Philby in Arabia, a key to British bats, and the teeth of elephants — all these had been subject to his illuminating exposition.

As an officer in the RNVR, Morrison-Scott was on active service throughout the second world war in motor torpedo boats on combined operations. As a lieutenant commander he won the Distinguished Service Cross.

With the war behind him Morrison-Scott returned to the British Museum where he, Sir John Ellerman and, in part, R. W. Hayman gave their attention to the great works that brought them distinction throughout the zoological world. *The Check-list of Palaearctic Mammals* (1952), *Southern African Mammals — a reclassification* (1953) and a *Handlist of Malaysian Mammals (Supplement to Chasen) 1955*, are working tools of all mammalogists. But while this work was going on Morrison-Scott was also engaged in the production of smaller contributions such as the specific status of Egyptian mummified cats, deer antler anomalies, the coat colour of the grey squirrel and a list of British mammals. During this period, too, he gave considerable attention to the use of plenary powers for the purpose of stabilising the names, by validation or rejection, of various mammals in taxonomic literature.

During his four years as director of the Science Museum from 1956, Morrison-Scott developed his administrative flair and was respected by the staff who appreciated that his objective was to help them to enhance the standing of the museum.

Morrison-Scott's experience was exploited by various committees and governing bodies. He was honorary treasurer of the Zoological Society of London from 1950 to 1976 and, in a similar capacity, contributed greatly to the success of the International Zoological Congress in 1953. He was a trustee of the Imperial War Museum (1956-60), a fellow (1963) and governor of the Imperial College of Science and Technology (1956-72), a council member of the National Trust (1968-83) and a member of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries (1973-76), a fellow of the Linnean Society and of the Institute of Biology.

Morrison-Scott indulged diverse interests in the time not absorbed by his professional duties. Real tennis, skiing, shooting, sailing, and — as he put it — an occasional interest in the relative speeds of equine perissodactyls. As a craftsman he excelled in the turning of wood, ivory and other media. The beauty of his lettering in stone expressed not only his calligraphic appreciation but the inscriptions, in Latin, his love also of the classical languages.

He married in 1935 Rita Layton who survives him.

HELENA SHIRE

Helena Mennie Shire, emeritus fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge University, died on November 16 aged 79. She was born in Aberdeen on June 21, 1912.

HELENA Shire was a Scot, whose life was devoted to the literature and music of her land. She knew and loved literature from the medieval and renaissance periods in the Scots tongue. Through her publication of texts from manuscripts or inaccessible old print she brought to a wider public the glories of the renaissance flowering of culture in Scotland.

She grew up in Aberdeen and graduated from the university there in 1933 as a gold medallist. From Aberdeen she went to Cambridge University to take up a scholarship at Newnham College where she gained a first class in the English tripos and started her career in research.

For the rest of her life she lived in Cambridge, where she researched, wrote, lectured and taught in the English faculty. From 1961 to 1963 she was a senior fellow in arts of the Carnegie Trust for the universities of Scotland. She always taught part-time, keeping most of her working time for research.

The partnership of music and words was important to her, as may be seen in her editing of the song texts for *Music of Scotland 1500-1700, Musica Britannica Vol XV*. During that period, Scotland was ruled by the Stuart monarchs, at whose courts, especially during the sixteenth century, poetry and music flourished. Her book, now recognised as a classic authority, *Song, Dance and Poetry of the Court of Scotland under King James VI*, reveals how well she understood the arts in 16th century Scotland, and their relationship with the arts of France, England and Italy. This power to see literature within the wider context appears also in her *Preface to Spenser* in which she gives due recognition to the Irish influence in the life and work of the English poet.

Many of Helena Shire's discoveries were of small manuscripts or single poems and some of these she published in the series *The Ninth of May*. These editions are now sought after by bibliophiles.

The war gave Helena Shire the task of teaching English to exiled Polish men and women who wanted to join the British armed forces. Her friendship with them continued to the end of her life. She helped bring to fruition the Corbridge Trust, named after her husband, which fosters exchanges between British and Polish universities. She was awarded Silver Insignia of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

During the last ten years of her life Helena Shire turned to Scottish poetry of the twentieth century. She edited two selections, *The Pure Account* and *The Wrong Music*, from the fine poetry written by Olive Fraser who had also achieved high honours at the universities of Aberdeen and Cambridge. This work was done from affection for her former classmate, yet Helena Shire's scholarly searching eye and critical faculty were as clear as ever.

She was closely associated with Robinson College from its beginnings in the early 1970s and became one of its first fellows on its formal creation in 1977. Her college life was many faceted: she taught English, selected the books for the English section of the library, took an active interest in the gardens and fabric of the college, designed the college crest and endowed a photographic competition.

Her husband and son predeceased her and she leaves two daughters.

BRYDEN THOMSON

Bryden Thomson, music director of the Royal Scottish Orchestra until August, died on November 14 aged 63. He was born at Ayr on July 26, 1928.

BRYDEN Thomson was one of the leading advocates of twentieth century music from all over the world, but with a special emphasis on British and Scandinavian works. In recent years he had done a great service to the neglected and not-so-neglected composers of the English School by reviving their works, all strongly performed, on record. Among Thomson's most notable achievements were complete sets of the symphonies of Vaughan Williams and Arnold Bax.

In the Scandinavian field he was a noted interpreter of Sibelius, Nielsen, Holmboe and Sallinen. He also gave the premieres of many modern scores, especially ones by Scottish composers. He was a strong advocate of Bruckner and Mahler. Indeed he gave the first full cycle of Bruckner's symphonies in Ireland during his spell in Dublin.

Thomson studied composition at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and conducting with Schmidt-Isserstedt in Hamburg. At first he had no ambition to take up conducting as a career and taught music in schools. But eventually he caught the bug and earned a post as assistant to Ian Whyte with the BBC Scottish Orchestra. After a spell conducting *West Side Story* in London and the Royal Ballet on tour he moved to Scandinavia and was in charge of opera and ballet in various centres.

In 1966 he became associate conductor of the Scottish National Orchestra and in 1968 conductor of the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra, a notable period in its history that led to its upgrading to become the BBC Philharmonic. From 1977 to 1985 he was conductor of the Ulster Orchestra and gained it a reputation well beyond Belfast.

Across the border he also took over the helm of the Irish Radio Orchestra in Dublin. Finally he was back in his native Scotland as music director of the Scottish National Orchestra in 1988 after Neeme Järvi had left precipitately. He conducted the orchestra's inaugural concert in Glasgow's new Royal Concert Hall and saw it promoted to being the Royal Scottish Orchestra.

He appeared as a guest throughout Canada, the USA and Australia. He introduced Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* to Buenos Aires, Vaughan Williams's London Symphony to Vancouver. He was always interested in musical education and had been seen on television conducting the early years of the BBC *Young Musician of the Year* contest.

Thomson was an unassuming figure, slight of frame, on the podium, but his modest appearance hid a musician with a passionate commitment to the work in hand. His memorial is the large corpus of CDs of British music, which won high praise.

Memorial services

Mr Edward Hall
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Edward Hall was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev James Ramsay officiated. Mr Michael Noakes read from the works of Joyce Grenfell and Mr John Ward gave an address. Miss Fiona Clifton-Welker, harp, played *Interlude* by Benjamin Britten. Among those present were:

Mrs Hall (widow), Mr Matthew Hall (son), Mr and Mrs William Whitbread (son-in-law and daughter); Sir George and Lady Blunden, Colonel Sir Richard Martin-Bird, Commander T P F U Page, RN, and Lady Cecilia Page, Mr George Bruce (president, Royal Society of Portrait Painters) with Mr Carlos Sancha (honorary treasurer), members of the council and other members of the society.

Mr John Walton (chairman, Federation of British Artists), Mr Frederick Hill (Arts Club), Mr Adrian Barnes (Remembrancer of the City of London), Mr Melvyn Barnes (Guildhall Librarian and Director of Libraries and Art Galleries, Corporation of London), Mr John Ashby (representing the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England), Mrs Michael Noakes, Major-General Paul Bray, Mr and Mrs Norman Hepple, Mr and Mrs David Poole, Mr Leonard Boden and Mrs W H Whitbread.

Mr Adrian Henry
A service of commemoration and thanksgiving for the life of Mr Adrian Henry was held yesterday in the Chapel of Guy's Hospital. The Rev Neville Smith, chaplain, officiated and Mr Julian Henry, son, read from the works of W.B. Yeats. Mr Michael Laurence, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Guy's Hospital, and Professor Rosalyn Higgins, QC, gave addresses.

Roland Antony Cookson

There will be a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Roland Antony Cookson on Thursday, December 12, at 11.00 am in the Church of St Thomas the Martyr, The Haymarket, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Dinners

Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers
The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Honorary Member of the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers and Senior Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, dined with the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers last night at the institution. He was received by Mr A.D. Holland, president of the society, and Mr J.G. Wiltshire, honorary treasurer.

Order of Malta
Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Grand President of St John Ambulance Association and Brigade, was guest of honour at a dinner given by the British Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta last night. Lord Craigmyle, President of the British Association, presided. The other guests included:

Count Marullo di Condojanni, Receiver of the Common Treasure of the Order of Malta, Lord Vestey, Lord Prior of the Most Venerable Order of St John, Professor Roger Scruton, the French Ambassador and Mme Dorin, the Polish Ambassador and Mme de Vition, Archbishop Barbarito, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Viscount and Viscountess Monckton of Brenchley, Lord and Lady Napier and Ettrick, Lord and Lady Westbury, Lord and Lady Harvington, Lady Chilgrmyle, Lady Vestey, Dr Conrad and Lady Hilda Swan.

The Hon Mrs Wills, the Hon Andrew Fraser, the Hon Dominic and Mrs Elliot, the Hon Tom and Mrs Shaw, Sir Peter Hope, Sir Richard and Lady Temple, Prince and Princess Rupert zu Loewenstein, Prince Konrad zu Loewenstein, Count and Countess Joseph Czernin, Count and Countess Peter Sellern-Aspang, Major Count J D von Merveldt, Baron and Baroness Peter Haivany, the Right Rev Bishop Gordon Wheeler, the Very Rev Canon Maurice O'Leary, the Very Rev Canon Adrian Arrowsmith, the Rev the Hon Piers Grant-Ferris, the Rev Dom Eric Phillips, Mr and Mrs Peregrine Bertie, Mr and Mrs Nigel Stourton and Captain and Mrs David Bune.

Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation
Mr John MacGregor, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons, and Mr Kenneth Clarke, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, were the principal guests at a dinner of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation held last night at Barber-Surgeons' Hall. Mr Clarke, Mr Robert Balchin, chairman of the foundation, and Mr David Tagg were the speakers. Among others present were:

The Earl of Stockton, Baroness Blatch, Sir John Caines, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, Sir Christopher Lawson, Sir Geoffrey Leigh, Mr Tim Eggar, MP, Mr Michael Fallon, MP, Mrs Robert Balchin, Mr Gary Hawkes, Mr Cecil Knight and Mr Phillip Rhodes.

Anglo-Brazilian Society
Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was the guest of honour at a dinner dance of the Anglo-Brazilian Society held last night at Grosvenor House. The Brazilian Ambassador, president, and Senhora Flecha de Lima and the Earl of Dartmouth, chairman, and the Countess of Dartmouth received the guests, who included:

The Ambassador of Portugal, the Ambassador of Paraguay and Señora Espinoza, Sir William and Lady Harding, Mr Jacques Arnold, MP, and Mrs Arnold and Mr Adrian Beamish.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Sir Michael Atiyah, President of the Royal Society, and Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Foundation for Science and Technology, were host yesterday at a lecture and dinner discussion held jointly by the society and the foundation. Professor H. Ursprung, Director of the Science Agency in the Department of the Interior, Switzerland, was the speaker. Among those present were:

The Swiss Ambassador and Mrs Muheim, Lord Beloff, Lady Butterworth, Lord and Lady Flowers, Lord Hunter of Newington, Lord Perry of Walton, Lord Taylor of Gryfe, Baroness White, Lady Atiyah, Sir Hermann Bondi, Sir Arnold Burgen, Sir Ronald Halstead, Sir Ian Lloyd, MP, Sir David Phillips, Sir Charles Reece, Sir Trevor Skeet, MP, Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Mrs H Ursprung, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Mr Peter Rost, MP, Dr Richard J Haas, Mr Robert Haas and Mr Oscar Roith.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mrs Linda Hilary Davies to be a circuit judge, assigned to the Western Circuit.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the new Fujitsu microelectronics factory at Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, at 2.55.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a luncheon with the Master and Court of Assistants of the Barbers' Company at Barber-Surgeons' Hall at 12.45.

The Prince of Wales, as Patron of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund Appeal, will hold a reception at Kensington Palace at 6.30.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the National Aids Trust, will open the World Aids Day conference at the Institute of Contemporary Art at 10.10 organised by NAT and the Health Education Authority; and will attend a rock concert by the Chicken Shed Theatre Company at the Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square at 7.25 in aid of the Chicken Shed Building Fund.

The Duchess of York will open the Discerning Eye exhibition at the Mall Galleries at 6.15.

Prince Edward will attend the annual dinner of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Golfing Society at St James's Palace at 7.50.

The Princess Royal will deliver the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth 1991 Churchill Lecture at the Banqueting House at 6.05.

The Duke of Kent will attend the opening of the "Friends of Poland" exhibition at the Polish Cultural Institute at 6.30.

The Duchess of Kent will launch the Tree Council's National Tree Week at Paddington Lower House, North Westminster Community School, Oakington Road, W9, at 11.30; and, as Colonel-in-Chief of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, will attend the Officers' Regimental dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club at 7.55.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.B. Constable Maxwell and Miss A.E.M. Cotterell
The engagement is announced between Thomas, younger son of Wing Commander and Mrs Michael Constable Maxwell, of Newton House, Kirkhill, Inverness-shire, and Alice, only daughter of Mr Julian and the Hon Mrs Cotterell, of Steeple Manor, Wareham, Dorset.

Mr G.E.B. Giddins and Miss J.E. Turner
The engagement is announced between Grey, elder son of Dr and Mrs Grey Giddins, of Worthing, Sussex, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Turner, of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Mr A.R. Hayes and Miss V.J.C. Miers
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Hayes, of 44 Thames Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, and Victoria, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Douglas Miers, of East Farmhouse, Wylye.

Mr C.E. Lailey and Miss L.G. Krogh
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Roger Lailey, of Newbury, Berkshire, and Lisa, elder daughter of Mr Euan Krogh, of Palmerston North, New Zealand, and Mrs Linda Palmer, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr G.D. Liddle and Miss V.M. Robertson
The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Mr and Mrs D. Liddle, of Whitstable, Kent, and Vicki, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J.B. Robertson, of Kinghorn, Fife.

Mr J.R. McGirr and Miss A.E. Faulkner
The engagement is announced between John Ruari, son of Mr and Mrs J. McGirr, and Amanda Eloise, daughter of Mrs A.M. Faulkner and the late Mr B.J. Faulkner.

Mr M. Prenter and Miss T. Grobler
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Prenter, of Edinburgh, and Tracey, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Grobler, of Vereeniging, South Africa. The marriage will take place in Johannesburg.

Mr J.H.B. Stanley and Miss S.G.C. Grant
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Stanley, of Northease, Sussex, and Sarah, middle daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Grant, of Roundhay, Yorkshire.

Buckingham Palace Luncheon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a luncheon party yesterday at Buckingham Palace.

The guests were:

Professor Dame Jane Lloyd (Nuffield Professor of Child Health, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street), Mrs Barbara Mills, QC (director, Serious Fraud Office), Mr John McCarthy (television journalist), Sir Eric McDowell (chairman, Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland), Lord McGregor of Durris (chairman, Press Complaints Commission), Mr Cameron Mackintosh (producer of musicals), Mr Geoffrey Parker (High Master, Manchester Grammar School) and the Hon Nicholas Serota (director, the Tate Gallery).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jean-Baptiste Lully, composer, Florence, 1632; William Blake, poet, engraver and painter, London, 1757; William Froude, naval architect, Dartington, Devon, 1810; Friedrich Engels, co-author of the *Communist Manifesto*, Barmen, Germany, 1820.

DEATHS: Gian Bernini, sculptor, Rome, 1680; Matsuo Basho, poet, Osaka, Japan, 1694; Washington Irving, writer, Tarrytown, New York, 1859.

Saints us at daybreak with your love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
Psalm 90 : 14 REB

BIRTHS

AITKEN - On November 11th 1991, at Greenwich Hospital, to Katherine (née Hampson) and Robert, a son, Charles, a brother for Elizabeth.

ANDREWS - On November 3rd, to Sylvia (née Chappell) and David, a son, Theo Richard, a brother to William, Jessica and Henry, never forgetting Sophie and Lydia.

ANDREW - On November 16th, to Sarah (née Tavernier) and Mark, a daughter, Mathilda Cecily.

CHANRAI - On November 24th, at The Portland Hospital, to Sharda (née Hathuramani) and Jagdish, a daughter.

DINKIN - On November 25th, at The Portland Hospital, to Gill (Hagon) and David, a son, Jonathan Alexander.

EL-KANUNI - On November 25th, at The Portland Hospital, to Zienab and Khaled, a boy, Mahmoud.

ELWES - On November 24th, to Louisa (née Robson) and Jonathan, a daughter, Tatiana Catherine, a sister for Hermione and Marina.

FERRARI - On November 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Carolyn (née Stokes) and Paul, a son, Julian Paul, a baby brother for Ashley, Olivia and Georgina.

GATHERER - On November 25th, at The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Maureen (née McKenzie) and Nicholas, a son, Alexander Charles McKay, a brother for Charlotte.

JUDD - On November 24th at Princess Anne, Southampton to Melissa (née Goddard) and Christopher, a son, Jamie Benedict Langley.

PALENGAT - On Wednesday November 20th, to Nichola (née Webster) and Christopher, a son, Hugo Alexander Marie.

PLUMPTRE - On November 26th, to Alexandra and George, a daughter.

STEEL - On November 25th, to Lindsay (nee Farrell) and James, a daughter, Sophie Mary Verena.

VAVASOUR - On November 21st, to Jill (née Fellows) and Dunstan, a son Oliver James.

WEST - On November 26th, to Gillian (née Fielden) and John, a son, Christopher John.

WINKLER VON STIERNHIELM - On November 15th, to Susan and Olof, a son, Gustav Joachim Nicolai, a brother for Nils and Maximilian.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - On Saturday November 23rd 1991, suddenly at Dundee, Elizabeth Valery Aitken of Pittormie, Dairsie, Cupar. Very dearly loved wife of John Pittormie Anderson and much loved mother of Henry and Neil. Funeral private.

ANDREWS - On November 24th 1991, Col. Alan, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L., at the County Hospital, Hertford. Funeral on December 2nd 1991 at All Saints Church, Hertford, at 2.30 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to Hertford Branch of N.S.P.C.C., c/o Powell Funeral Service Ltd., Watton Road, Ware, SG12 0AA.

BARRETT - On November 22nd, near St Mary's Convent, Worthing, Denis, aged 80, - husband of Ellis, R.I.P., father of Anne, Patricia and Paul. Requiem Mass to be in Worthing, December 4th. Flowers/enquiries H.T. Tribe Ltd., (0903) 234516.

BRUELL - On November 26th, Eric, dearly loved husband of Audrey and much loved father of Jonathan and Nicholas. Cremation Tuesday December 3rd (family only), followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Road, SW7, at 3.15 pm to which all are welcome. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to Help Hammersmith Cancer, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12.

CHRISTIANSEN - On November 26th, in hospital in Plymouth, Christina, of Salcombe, Devon. Dearly beloved wife of the late Michael, dearest mother of Rufus and Sarah. All enquiries to Walter Parson, The Firs, 702 Budshead Road, Crownhill, Plymouth. (0752) 767676.

CORK - On November 25th 1991, Norman Barrington, deeply loved by his wife Pauline (Freki), his son Michael and daughter Patricia and grandchildren Nicola and Simon. Private cremation.

DEATHS

COX - On November 26th, Harry Charles Ramsay, aged 5 months, much loved son of Christopher and Charlotte Anne and adored brother of Laura. Funeral private.

FFORDE - On November 25th 1991, peacefully at home, Mary Allson (née MacLehose), aged 85, devoted wife of the late Sir Arthur Fforde G.B.E., greatly loved and loving mother of John and Tony and of Christine McCrum, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt. Fuenral Service at 1.45 pm on Wednesday December 4th at Wonersh Parish Church, followed by private cremation. Donations, if desired, to The Heriot Trust Fund (which assists families of Guildford clergy), c/o Robert Ayling Funeral Services, 25 South Road, Guildford, GU2 6NY.

GLUCKSMANN - On November 26th 1991, at home, Lilly, wife of Peter and mother of Barbara and Nicola. Cremation at Golders Green on Friday November 29th at 1.30 pm. No flowers but donations in her memory, if desired, to Action for Sick Children, Argyle House, 29-31 Euston Road, London NW1 2SD.

HARRISON - On Monday November 25th 1991, peacefully in his 84th year, Benjamin Clifford (Cliff), C.B.E., C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E. (retired), P.P.I.Prod.E., beloved husband of the late Doreen, father of Bryan, Sheila and Jane, and grandfather, Founder Life Member, Past President/Chairman Leamington R.U.F.C., Past President Warwickshire R.F.U., former Managing Director Alfred Herbert Ltd. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, Radford Semele, on Friday November 29th at 10.15 am, followed by cremation at Oakley Wood Crematorium. Family flowers only but, if desired, donations may be sent to Cancer Relief Macmillan Nurse Fund c/o Myton Hospice, Myton Road, Warwick.

HARTLEY RUSSELL - On November 27th 1991, peacefully at home, after a long illness borne with immense courage, Derrick Aylmer (Frederick Henry Howard (Tusky), O.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L., M.A., aged 85. Fortified by the Rites of the Holy Church. Much loved husband of Pam and devoted father of Rupert, Robin and Piers, stepfather of Amanda and Rodney and grandfather of Jemima. Lord of the Manor of Buckleburv. Funeral private. No flowers by request but donations in lieu, if desired, to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, Newbury, may be sent to Camp Hopson & Chivers, 6/12 Northbrook Street, Newbury, Berks, RG13 1DN. A Memorial Service will be announced at a later date. Requiescat in Pace.

HONER - On November 27th, peacefully at home, Eric, dearly loved husband of Thelma, father of Nigel and Jackie and grandfather of Max and Sophie. Private cremation. Service in his memory at St. Thomas', Lymington, on Tuesday December 3rd at 3.30 pm. No flowers please.

HUNTER - On Wednesday November 27th 1991, peacefully after a long illness at the Highland Hospice, Inverness, Dorothy Scott, (née Calderwood), of Cawdor Court, The Village, Culloden, Inverness, beloved wife of the late T. Michael Hunter, mother of Sally and Peter. Service at Perth Crematorium on Saturday November 30th at 10.45 am. All friends respectfully invited. Enquiries and flowers to D. Gunn Funeral Director, Blackwells Street, Dingwall, tel: (0349) 63961.

KITCHIN - On November 26th 1991, suddenly but peacefully, Eileen, of Pond House, Codicote, Herts., beloved wife of John Kitchin and dear sister of Olive Allen. Funeral Service to be held on Friday December 6th at West Herts Crematorium at 2 pm. All enquiries to Geo. W. Blow & Son Ltd., Church Street, Welwyn, Herts. tel: (0438)711 4686.

KRECH - On Tuesday November 26th, peacefully at his home in Knightsbridge, Gerald, aged 88: fondly remembered by those remaining of his many friends as Crinks. Simple funeral at 3 pm on Wednesday December 4th at Mortlake Crematorium, Richmond. Instead of flowers a special request for donations to King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst.

LORTON - On November 26th 1991, peacefully after a short illness, Howard James (Captain R.N.R.), aged 72 years, of Evesham, Worcestershire, dearly loved husband of Peggy. Funeral at All Saints Church, Evesham, on Tuesday December 3rd at 2 pm, followed by cremation at Worcester. No flowers. Donations, if desired, for Gardeners's Royal Benevolent Society. Memorial Service to be arranged.

THOMPSON - On November 25th, peacefully at Te Hira Nursing Home, Rugby, Amnda (Marty) aged 87 years, wife of the late J. Harold Thompson. Dearly loved by Anne, John, Sarah and Peter. Funeral Service at Oakley Wood Crematorium, Leamington, on Tuesday December 3rd at 1 pm.

WILLIAMS - On November 25th 1991, peacefully at home, Dorothy Welland, wife of the late Professor David and mother of Branwen and Nona. Funeral Service at St Paul's Church, York, on Tuesday December 3rd at 1.15 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please to Longhurst, 8-10 Pound Lane, Epsom or donations, if desired, to Tadworth Court Hospital for Sick Children.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ROBERTSON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of James Robertson C.B.E., F.R.C.M., will be held at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, at 2.30 pm on Friday December 6th.

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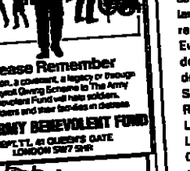
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Central and Social Recreational Trust
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference CDO.dr11. Any representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

ALLENRAY LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 16th December 1991 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish the Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 26th day of November 1991
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
RAY TAYLOR, DIRECTOR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No 808 1991
CHANCERY DIVISION
MANCHESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF SETON HEALTHCARE GROUP plc
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 29th October 1991 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company by £10 5 million for the purpose of enabling the same to be credited to a special capital reserve in the books of account of the said Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before The Honourable Mr Justice O'Donaghue at the Courts of Justice, Crown Square, Manchester, on Monday the 16th day of December 1991.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the said Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 28th day of November 1991
Hall Stewart, Levy & Co., 5 St Mary's Parsonage, Manchester, M3 2RD
Solicitors for the above-named Company

R I McKAY DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
Registered number 01906123. Nature of business: Property Developers and Builders. Trade classification: 23. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 20th November 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Lloyds Bank Plc. Joint Administrative receivers: Michael William Young and Nigel John Hamilton-Smith (office holder nos 8077 and 2093) of Morton Thornton & Co Torrington House 47 Holywell Hill St Albans Herts AL1 1HD

Nationwide Courier Network PLC
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD on 6 December 1991 at 2.30 pm for the purposes of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under S48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The meeting may if it thinks fit establish a committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors committees by or under the Act.
Creditors whose claims are not entitled to wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Other creditors are only entitled to if:
(A) they have delivered to us at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD, no later than 12.00 hours on 5 December 1991 written details of the debt they claim to be due to them from the company, and such claim has been duly admitted under the provision of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and
(B) There has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Date: 21 November 1991
R D Hewitt
Administrative Receiver

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
R B M (Technical Services) Limited
Registered number: 1425382.
Nature of business: Repairs of electrical equipment. Trade classification: 08. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 7th November 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Richard Copp (office holder no: 2322 and 1778. Address: Sloy Hayward 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA.

NATWEST INVESTMENT BANK LIMITED
(Registered in England No. 839590)
Proposed payment out of capital pursuant to Section 171 of the Companies Act 1985
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") that: NatWest Investment Bank Limited ("the Company") has by a Written Resolution passed on 25 November 1991 approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring by purchase shares in its own share capital, (ii) the permissable capital payment (as defined in Section 171 of the Act) for such shares is £155,000,000, (iii) the statutory declaration of the Company's directors and the report of the Company's auditors required by Section 173 of the Act in respect of such payment out of capital are available for inspection by any member or creditor of the Company at the Company's registered office at 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR during business hours on any day (except a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday) throughout the period ending 5 weeks after the date of the said Written Resolution;
and (iv) any creditor of the Company may at any time within the 5 weeks immediately following the date of the said Written Resolution apply to the High Court of Justice under Section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting such payment out of capital.
Dated the 28th day of November 1991
Tim Bryers
Company Secretary
Registered Office: 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
V Schaverien Limited
Registered number 00270601.
Nature of business: Caterers.
Trade classification: 50. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 21st November 1991
Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: National Westminster Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Richmond Hocking and Malcolm Cohen (office holder nos 2522 and 6825) Address: Sloy Hayward 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA

ROY ADDIS LIMITED
Registered number. 00673904.
Trading name Roy Addis Limited Nature of business. Insurance Consultants. Trade classification: 33. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 20th November 1991. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank Plc Joint Administrative Receivers David John D Coleman and David A Ralph. (office holder nos 4542 and 5950) both of Moore Stephens St Paul's House Warwick Lane, London EC4P 4BN.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
METROPOLIS DESIGNS LIMITED
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company is to be held at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB on Monday 23 December 1991 at 11.15 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be

NEW RELEASES

AMA (15): The spiritual voyage of an African family in London; an uneven attempt to merge tribal magic with the urban landscape. Directors, Kwesi Owusa and Kwate Nee-Owoo. Renoir (071-837 8402).

♦ **HANGIN' WITH THE HOMEBOYS (15):** Broad but bouncy comedy-drama, about South Bronx pals hanging out one Friday night, from young Puerto Rican director, Joseph B. Vasquez. With Doug E. Doug, Mario Joyner. Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

K2 (15): Man versus nature (and man himself) high in the Himalayas. Grand scenery; tired drama. Director, Franc Roddam. Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705).

♦ **POINT BREAK (15):** Mindless assemblage of thrills (surfing, sky-diving, bank robbing), thunderously orchestrated by director Kathryn Bigelow. With Keanu Reeves, Patrick Swayze. Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

SWITCH (15): Miserable sex farce from Blake Edwards. Ellen Barkin mugs unmercifully as a dead macho stud sent back to earth as a woman. Odeon West End (0426 915574).

THE TWO JAKES (15): Jack Nicholson back on the Chinatown trail, uncovering murder and duplicity in Los Angeles. Flawed, but fun. With Harvey Keitel; Nicholson also directs. ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

VALMONT (15): Milos Forman's treatment of *Dangerous Liaisons*: muted as drama, but pretty as a Watteau picture. With Colin Firth, Annette Bening, Meg Tilly. Lumière (071-836 0691).

CURRENT

♦ **BOYZ N THE HOOD (15):** Black urban drama from hot-shot director John Singleton, piled high with homilies, but atmospheric. With Larry Fishburne, rap artist Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr. Cannon Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

CITY OF HOPE (15): John Sayles's dark, multi-layered tale of conflicts simmering in a New Jersey town. Flawed, but crackling with electricity. Starring Vincent Spano, Joe Morton. Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Gate (071-727 4043) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

♦ **THE COMMITMENTS (15):** Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Plaza (071-437 9999) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

♦ **FLIRTING (12):** Steps to maturity at segregated Aussie boarding schools in 1965. Delightful sequel to *The Year My Voice Broke* from director John Duigan. Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

♦ **OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY (15):** Wall Street greed (Danny DeVito) versus human decency (Gregory Peck). Muted comic variations on a familiar theme. Director, Norman Jewison. Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

TOTO THE HERO (15): Jaunty, absurdist comedy about youth, old age and life's disappointments from talented new Belgian director Jaco van Dormael. With Michel Bouquet, Thomas Godet. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

♦ **WHAT ABOUT BOB? (PG):** Phobia-mad Bill Murray drives psychiatrist Richard Dreyfuss close to the edge. Sweet, crazy comedy from Frank Oz. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Plaza (071-437 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

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☐ **KVETCH:** Steven Berkoff's trip into the East-End Jewish psyche: vivid but thinnish. Co-stars Anita Dobson. Garrick, Charing Cross Road. WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm. 140mins.

☐ **PARTY TIME:** Dorothy Tutin and Barry Foster in new but short Pinter-tyrants drink while their opponents die. Not vintage but still with the power to chill. Preceded by *Mountain Language*. Almeida, Almeida Street, London N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 90mins.

■ **THE PHILANDERER:** Full version of Shaw's self-censored play on marital doublethink. Prickly, fascinating. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 165mins.

☐ **THE REVENGERS' COMEDIES:** Alan Ayckbourn's ambitious, two-part comedy centred on the meeting of an incongruous pair (Griff Rhys Jones and Lia Williams). Less fun than one might hope, but worth the time. Strand, Strand, WC2 (071-240 0300) Part 1: Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Part 2: Tues, Wed, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm. 150mins each.

☐ **THE RIDE DOWN MT MORGAN:** Arthur Miller's disappointingly one-sided play where Tom Conti argues the case for bigamy. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. 150mins

■ **TARTUFFE:** Paul Eddington dithers, John Sessions cons, Felicity Kendal is bold in a nearly successful Molière. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 120mins.

☐ **WAITING FOR GODOT:** Rik Mayall, Adrian Edmondson find comedy but lose the depth and pathos in Beckett's play. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5040). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 5pm and 8.30pm, Sat, 4pm and 8pm. 135mins.

☐ **WHEN SHE DANCED:** Vanessa Redgrave unforgettable in Sherman's artful play about Isadora Duncan and the hazards of communication. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 135mins.

LONG RUNNERS: ☑ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☐ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (071-867 1044) . . . ☑ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ☐ Carmen Jones: Old Vic (071-928 7616) . . . ☑ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☑ Five Guys Named Moe: Lyric (071-494 5045) . . . ☐ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ☐ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-494 5075) . . . ☐ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

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Wallow in red nostalgia

DONALD COOPER



Not coming up roses: Alex Kingston, Katy Behean and Clive Russell in *The Bright and Bold Design*

THEATRE

The Bright and Bold Design
The Pit

EYES flashing, a hairy giant trundles into the room where four perfectly harmless women are painting flowers onto cups and saucers. He is the new design chief and a militant socialist, and he has news for them. "We've got to inspire, we've got to lift spirits," he trumpets. "There's no call to arms in Michaelmas daisies." Since the Stoke capitalist who has just employed him is highly suspicious of radical politics and rather fond of roses, the future of their business relationship is obvious. There will be trouble, conflict, and a sacking: and that will be that.

So Peter Whelan's new play duly works out, leaving him as vulnerable to the charge of having concocted a predictable plot as any dramatist this year. The question then becomes: what else has he to offer? And the primary answer seems to be a portrait of the giant socialist himself. This is Whelan's study of a loud, lumbering dinosaur he knows is extinct but whose passing he mourns.

The year is 1935, and Jim Rhys, as the character is called, embodies the hopes of the time in all their naïvety. If he can get china emblazoned with pylons, planes and other such totems onto the nation's tea tables, he will awaken its sleepy minds to the excitement of science and the future. If he can get the pottery company's workers into the yard, and harangue them with a ringing speech, he may help bring down Ramsay Mac in the coming election.

Whelan ruefully sends up Rhys's excesses. The giant treats his intellectually unremarkable wife with contempt, expects his poorly paid piece-workers to subsidise his cultural politics, and declares that he would destroy Shakespeare, Beethoven and Chartres cathedral for a more caring government. "By the end of the century", he proclaims, "the socialist ideal will have triumphed all over Europe."

Clive Russell plays the part with the hefty gusto of the very single-minded, energetic and large. It is an entertaining performance, but one that raises an obvious question. Is there any reason but nostalgia to give so much attention to such a personage when socialism has not exactly triumphed all over Europe?

Not really. Whelan has given Rhys a sparring partner in the form of Jessie, a piece-worker whose designs he encourages. She is supposed to represent the claims of a more private and personal muse than he, with his everlasting talk of social responsibility, believes should exist. Katy Behean, a fine actress, gives her a mulish, balky reality, but her motives are neither clear nor interestingly unclear; and she is not given the lines to match Rhys.

Still, the play has its amusing moments, and Bill Alexander's production builds up a nice atmosphere. There is a lovely scene when a tiny, flummoxed apprentice (Callum Dixon) is initiated into kissing his female workmates, and performs the task like someone holding his breath under water. Would there were more moments like it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband
Royal Court Upstairs

MY COMPLIMENTS to the chef for the arresting title of Debbie Isitt's play, which turns out to mean twice as much as it first seems to — further compliments to everyone involved in serving up this 90-minute piece of ferociously funny marital calamity. To Gary Tanner for the acid-green set and costumes, Isitt again for the witty, fast direction; Isitt for a third time along with Beverley Klein and Mark Kilmurry, the man in the middle, for first-class, bold performances that often threaten to swoop over the top into the grotesque yet remain dancing, prancing on the dangerous edge.

Isitt and Kilmurry co-founded the Snarling Beasties in 1985, and this is the final play in a trilogy devoted to the dark forces seething within heterosexual relationships. After domestic violence (*Punch and Judy*) and transvestism (*Femme Fatale*), Isitt presents the warning case of a man who leaves his wife for a younger woman, marries her, and then strays back to his ex-wife whose culinary skills prove dangerously irresistible.

Against a background of black and viridian shot-silk curtains, or a richness usually associated with royal portraits, Hilary (Klein), the ex-wife, and Laura (Isitt), the current one, sit on black carved thrones that — excellent touch — are a size too big for them so that their feet swing an inch or two off the ground. Halfway along the table between them sits Kilmurry, squirming with embarrassment, sweating in anxiety, preening himself and leering with rediscovered lust for sensual satisfactions.

Hilary hurtles us into the story within the first minute, spitting out the details of the rage that consumes her and the awful thought that has popped into her head — "a kitchen is a murderer's paradise". The action darts from the wedding anniversary dinner she has prepared for the new couple — "You do both eat *meat*, don't you?" — back to the start of the affair, the deception, discovery, evasions and second thoughts.

The abrupt shifts in tone are funny, the savagely precise feelings induce gasps of laughter, but never is there any doubt that at the heart of all this wit lie rage, disappointment, and searing grief. As events move towards dénouement, Klein hunches herself deeper into her throne, or springs from it to prowl like a question-mark on legs, after her errant man. Meanwhile, Isitt slumps at her end of the table, coldly condemning his spinelessness. Where Klein's upheavals have the baroque largeness of a Joan Collins, Isitt's face is almost expressionless: withering rebukes escape from her, without any of the honey of social politeness.

And bouncing between them goes Kilmurry: strong, weak, monster, victim, characteristics defined by razor-quick glances, smiles, or flashes of mime. A riveting evening.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ROCK

The Cult
Wembley Arena

ONE of Clint Eastwood's pay-off lines came to mind while watching The Cult. Muttered with wry disdain as the villain hurtles to a watery doom, it goes: "A man's got to know his limitations."

As a motto it is perfect for a band which has spent the better part of nine years learning to recognise and indeed capitalise on its imaginative shortcomings. The principal members, vocalist Ian Astbury and guitarist Billy Duffy, both set out in the north of England with radical, even arty aspirations. Duffy played in a band with the aesthetic Morrissey (pre-Smiths) while Astbury gravitated towards the anarcho-punk community of Bradford, with its hardened anti-establishmentarians like Crass and Poison Girls. When he started the group it was called Southern Death Cult and produced modishly alternative indie rock.

Such a heritage was impossible to discern from the pedestrian display of revivalist heavy rock which the band put on at Wembley. Duffy and Astbury, after progressively giving up all attempts at innovation, have shamelessly reinvented themselves in the image of their heroes of the Seventies.

The influences were not hard to spot as Duffy, armed with a Les Paul guitar and a bank of Marshall cabinets, cranked out the fat, stop-go chords of "Ceremony", while drummer Michael Lee filled the gaps with carefully measured, but pulverising syncopations and Astbury let rip with his piercing vocal timbre. Led Zeppelin-derived riffs garnished with occasional eastern modalities were rife, especially on the acoustic numbers "Edie (Ciao Baby)" and "If". Shades of Paul Kossoff, Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page coloured Duffy's soloing and posturing.

All of which was fine, but for the absence of the excitement and conviction which made those original artists the great performers that they were. Neither the dark-haired Astbury nor the blond Duffy, both sporting flared trousers and bared midriffs, was particularly engaging to watch.

Certainly, The Cult are no longer in any danger of over-reaching themselves. Having taken long and steady aim they seem to have hit the barn door at last.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Arts Features, page 15

TODAY'S EVENTS

THE NUTCRACKER: English National Ballet kicks off the annual *Nutcracker* season with what is being billed as a world premiere of a new production. This version, choreographed by Ben Stevenson (although based on his Houston production) with new designs by Desmond Heeley, follows Hoffmann's traditional story and is aimed at both children and adults. Palace Theatre, Oxford Street, Manchester (061-228 9922), 7.30pm.

CINDERELLA: Yet more Christmas fare for ballet-goers, this time courtesy of Scottish Ballet which is reviving Peter Darrell's 1979 production choreographed to Rossini's music from his opera, *La Cenerentola*. Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), 7.15pm.

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Mark Wigglesworth, rising young star of British conducting, conducts Britten's principal national broadcasting orchestra in Deryck Cooke's version of Mahler's Tenth Symphony. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm

MARTHA ARGERICH: The celebrated pianist joins the London Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 3 in C, in the final week of Mstislav Rostropovich's "Prokofiev Centenary" celebrations. The orchestra also plays the Symphony No 4 in C and No 3 in C minor. Rostropovich conducts. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), 7.45pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Alan Bennett turns to the tragic life of George III in his latest play for the National. It chronicles the life of the king who, in 1788, began to show symptoms of the mental derangement that eventually led to the Regency. Nigel Hawthorne takes the leading role. Opening night. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252), 7pm.

FIGARO'S WEDDING: English National Opera's bubbling new production of Mozart's *Figaro*, directed by Graham Vick. Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel makes a powerful Figaro, with a bold supporting cast. Joan Rodgers, Cathryn Pope, Donald Adams and John Graham Hall. Paul Daniel conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7pm.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: London Actors Theatre Company, specialist in young people's theatre, collaborates with writer Kjartan Poskitt and director Chris Fisher to produce a witty interpretation of the traditional story. Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 (071-228 2620), 7.30pm.

ENTERTAINMENTS

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Ton't & Tomor 7.30 (PREVIEWS) THE LITTLE CLAY CART attributed to Shudraka adapted by Jatinder Verma

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BBC 1

6.00 **Ceefax**

6.30 **Breakfast News** begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins

9.05 **Kilroy.** Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion: The police — in the dock? 9.50 **Hot Chefs.** Caribbean cook Rosamund Grant prepares spinach and prawn creolese

10.00 **News,** regional news and weather 10.05 **Playdays.** For the very young (s) 10.25 **Pinny's House.** Animation (r) 10.35 **Health UK** presented by Martyn Lewis and Linda Mitchell. The guests are all people who have been affected by heart trouble — snooker player Joe Johnson, chef Graham Kerr and pop star turned businessman Adam Faith

11.00 **News,** regional news and weather 11.05 **No Kidding.** Family quiz game show hosted by Mike Smith with Kate Copstick (s) 11.30 **People Today.** Includes Phillip Hodson with couples whose relationship has survived against the odds. With **news,** regional news and weather at 12.00

12.20 **Pebble Mill.** Entertainment and chat from the foyer, introduced by Alan Titchmarsh 12.55 **Regional news** and weather

1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather

1.30 **Neighbours.** (Ceefax) (s) 1.50 **Going for Gold.** General knowledge quiz with European contestants. The questionmaster is Henry Kelly

2.15 **Snooker.** Quarter-final action in the UK professional championship, introduced by David Vine from the Guild Hall, Preston

3.50 **Spider.** Animated adventures of a young boy and a friendly spider 3.55 **Brum.** The story of a little car that lives in a motor museum 4.05 **Get Your Own Back.** Game show which affords youngsters the chance to get their own back on a collection of adults. Presented by Dave Benson Phillips (s) 4.20 **New Adventures of Mighty Mouse.** Cartoon (r) 4.35 **Dark Season.** Episode three of the six-part science fiction adventure (s)

5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Blue Peter.** Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane Louise-Jordan with more news of the Golden Age appeal. (Ceefax) (s)

5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster

6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather

6.30 **Regional News magazines.** Northern Ireland: Neighbours

7.00 **Top of the Pops** presented by Tony Dortie and Adrian Rose (s)

7.30 **EastEnders.** (Ceefax) (s)

8.00 **Schofield's Europe.** In the third of his visits to European cities Phillip Schofield pops up in the Austrian capital, Vienna, where he meets the former racing driver and now airline owner Niki Lauda, the music therapy pioneer Dr Andreas Rett and the controversial architect Hundertwasser (Ceefax) (s)



Grave decision: John Gordon-Sinclair, Gina McKee (8.30pm)

8.30 **An Actor's Life for Me.** Amiable, slightly irritating comedy, starring John Gordon-Sinclair as a permanently aspiring actor. Tonight he has the agonising choice of holidaying in Greece with his girlfriend or playing a deformed gravedigger in a satellite television version of a Barbara Cartland novel. (Ceefax) (s)

9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather

9.30 **Canned Carrott.** Jasper Carrott with another collection of comic anecdotes and observations, including an exploration of the areas of expertise that divide men and women. With Robert Powell, Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis. (Ceefax) (s)

10.00 **So You Think You've Got Troubles.** The last in Laurence Marks's and Maurice Gran's comedy series starring Warren Mitchell as a London Jew who is re-located to his company's Belfast office

10.30 **Question Time** from Swindon, introduced by Peter Sissons. The panel is David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, David Blunkett, Labour party local government spokesman, Conservative peeress Lady Flather and Margaret Jay, director of the National Aids Trust

11.30 **Snooker.** Quarter-final highlights from the UK professional championship, introduced by David Vine

12.30am **Weather**

BBC 2

6.00 **Breakfast News** 8.15 **Westminster**

9.00 **Daytime on 2.** Educational programmes

2.00 **News** and weather followed by **You and Me** (r) 2.15 **The History Man** visits 15th-century Wymondham Abbey in Norfolk (r) 2.20 **Around Midnight.** A documentary portrait of night-time Leeds (r). (Ceefax)

3.00 **News** and weather followed by **Westminster Live.** Includes prime minister's question time 3.50 **News,** regional news and weather

4.00 **Snooker.** The half-way stage of the two remaining quarter-finals in the UK professional championship from the Guild Hall, Preston

5.30 **Food and Drink** explores the medicinal qualities of alcohol (r)

6.00 **Film: The Spy With My Face** (1966) starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum. Another in the *Man From UNCLE* secret agent series. Solo and Kuryakin are sent to Switzerland to install the combination of a safe that will hold a secret nuclear weapon, but the nasty members of Thrush have created a double of Solo in a plot to steal the device. Directed by John Newland. Wales: Delia Smith's Christmas 6.30 Deutsch Direkt 6.55 Through the Looking Glass

7.25 **First Sight: A New Rising Sun.** Michael Delahaye reports on the impact of Japanese investment in the south-east. Northern Ireland: Tomorrow's World; Wales: The Victorian Kitchen Garden; East: Matter of Fact; Midlands: Midlands Report; North, North-east and North-west: Close Up North; South: Soutjern Eye; South-west: Western Approach; West: Current Account

7.55 **Prisoners of Conscience.** Cardinal Basil Hume profiles an innocent jailed for his or her beliefs

8.00 **The Victorian Flower Garden.**
● CHOICE: The fifth of producer Keith Sheather's trips into gardening history skirts round the flower beds and offers a no less diverting discourse on such topics as lawns and ferns. The lawn mower was invented a few years before Victoria came to the throne, to the relief of gardeners who no longer had to keep the grass down by scythe. As demonstrated tonight, the bigger mowers were pulled by horses, clad in special leather shoes to protect the grass. The mechanical hedge trimmer had also arrived but maintaining the large garden was still very labour intensive. The programme also looks at the Victorian craze for ferns, with armies of respectable middle-class people setting off into the countryside with trowels and collecting boxes. They did immense damage and several species became extinct. This did not stop the fern motif turning up everywhere, on table cloths, wine glasses and silver spoons. (Ceefax) (s). Wales: Between Ourselves

8.30 **Top Gear.** A report and highlights of the four-day Lombard RAC rally

9.00 **Murder Most Horrid: He Died a Death,** by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman. Dawn French stars as a former soap star who is reduced to a role in *Catflap*, a long-running whodunnit in which the cast would gladly murder each other. With Tony Slattery, Kenneth Cranham, Kevin McNally, Stephen Moore and Gwen Taylor



Jacks of all trades: Windermere's part-time firemen (9.30pm)

9.30 **40 Minutes: Windermere's Burning.**
● CHOICE: Not many people may know that two-thirds of England's fire stations are manned by part-timers. Mark Frith's film is a portrait of one of them, at Windermere in the Lake District. The brigade are a team of 17, equipped with bleepers and ready to down tools or jump out of bed at a moment's notice. It is high summer, which means the weather is awful and Windermere is clogged with tourists. The nightmare of any film-maker is spending six expensive weeks on location, only for nothing much to happen. Perhaps thankfully nothing much does, though the lads are twice summoned to the town's four-star hotel on a false alarm. Starved of dramatic action, Frith falls back on human interest. His film becomes the story of the dustman who spouts Wordsworth, the B and B proprietor musing on his guests' dirty weekends and the fitter made redundant after 20 years at the same machine. (Ceefax)

10.10 **Small Objects of Desire.** The fight bulb (r). (Ceefax)

10.30 **Newsnight** presented by the tigerish Sue Cameron

11.15 **The Late Show.** Cultural highlights of the month are reviewed by Jenny Diski, Michael Eaton and Christopher Frayling (s)

11.55 **Prisoners of Conscience.** A repeat of the programme shown at 7.55 12.00 **Weather**

ITV

6.00 **TV-am**

9.25 **Jeopardy!** Back to front quiz game show 9.55 **Thames News** and weather

10.00 **The Time . . . the Place . . .** With Mike Scott

10.40 **This Morning.** Family magazine series

12.10 **The Riddlers.** Children's puppet series

12.30 **News** with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather 1.10 **Thames News** and weather

1.20 **Home and Away.** Australian family drama serial (Oracle) 1.50 **A Country Practice.** Medical drama serial (s)

2.20 **TV Weekly.** Anne Diamond goes behind the scenes of popular ITV and C4 programmes 2.50 **Talkabout.** Game show for the garrulous presented by Andrew O'Connor

3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors.** Medical drama serial

3.55 **Captain Zed and Zee Zone.** Cartoon adventures 4.20 **Mike and Angelo.** Comedy drama serial about a friendly alien living with a suburban family 4.45 **Go Wild!** Magazine series on environmental issues, introduced by Chris Packham

5.10 **Thames Action.** Investigative consumer series

5.40 **News** with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather

5.55 **Thames Help.** Jackie Spreckley with the last of her week's series on career options for young people

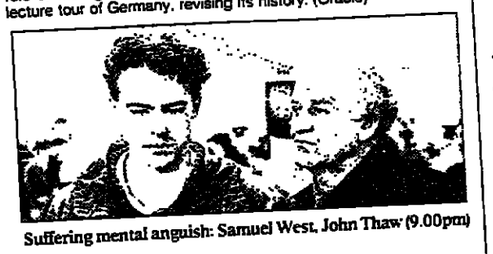
6.00 **Home and Away** (r). (Oracle) 6.30 **Thames News.** (Oracle)

7.00 **Emmerdale.** Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)

7.30 **Voyager — The World of National Geographic: Beating the Blizzard.** British climber Stephen Venables braves the blizzards of South Georgia in Antarctica

8.00 **The Bill: Profit and Loss.** Sun Hill CID are called to a house by bailiffs after they break in and discover the body of a dead woman. The plot thickens when it is discovered that she was an illegal immigrant (Oracle)

8.30 **This Week: Hitler's Children — The New Nazis.** A report on how neo-Nazis in Germany are recruiting from the disenchanted in the newly-liberated East. It examines the British connection and the role of the right-wing historian David Irving who has been on a lecture tour of Germany, revising its history. (Oracle)



Suffering mental anguish: Samuel West, John Thaw (9.00pm)

9.00 **Stanley and the Women.**
● CHOICE Kingsley Amis's 1984 novel about a successful middle-aged man trying to come to terms with his son's mental illness reaches the screen in an adaptation by *Quatermass* veteran Nigel Kneale. Kneale was apparently at pains to play down the misogyny which so angered feminists on the book's release. Certainly there is little evidence of it in tonight's opener which hardly gets beyond the stage of introducing the characters and setting up the plot. John Thaw plays Stanley, advertising manager of a national newspaper, with Sam West as his disturbed son. Sounding a bit like Benny Green, Thaw is more credible than as Inspector Morse, where he sounds like a man taking elocution lessons. The women, all strongly cast, are the wife (Penny Downie), the former wife (Sheila Gish), the former mistress (Sian Thomas) and the psychiatrist (Geraldine James). The early verdict is polished but slow. (Oracle)

10.00 **News at Ten** with Alastair Stewart and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 **Thames News** and weather

10.40 **Aids Update '91** presented by Ruby Wax. HIV positive former inmates talk about Aids in prison. (Oracle)

10.50 **The City Programme.** Includes items on multiple share applications and the perfume wars

11.20 **01.** Includes an interview with Jim Abrahams, director of *Hot Shots*, starring Charlie Sheen (s)

11.50 **Prisoner: Cell Block H**

12.40am **Contacts.** Television version of a lonely hearts column

1.10 **The Concert.** The One recorded at the Town and Country Club, north London (s)

2.10 **Film: The Silent One** (1973) starring Lino Ventura, Leo Genn and Robert Hardy. Involved French/Italian spy thriller about a Frenchman, once kidnapped by the Soviets, who is offered a new identity by Britain's MI5 in exchange for certain information. Directed by Claude Pinoteau

4.30 **America's Top Ten** (r) (s) 5.00 **Videofashion** (r)

5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily**

9.25 **Schools**

12.00 **The Parliament Programme.** News from both the Commons and the Lords

12.30 **Business Daily.** Reports from the world's money markets

1.00 **Sesame Street.** Early-learning series



Musical romance: Kathryn Grayson, Frank Sinatra (2.00pm)

2.00 **Film: It Happened in Brooklyn** (1947, b/w) starring Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson and Peter Lawford. Pleasant but minor musical about a serviceman who returns to New York after the second world war, moves in with his friend, a school janitor, and tries to make it big in the music business. Directed by Richard Whorf

4.00 **A Brush With Art.** The third of Alwyn Crawshaw's 12-part learn-to-paint series deals with the different textures of paper

4.30 **Fifteen-to-One.** Fast-moving general knowledge game, presented by William G. Stewart (s)

5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show.** Today's guests are mothers who have high ambitions for their daughters

5.55 **Willo the Wisp.** Animated series set in a magical forest

6.00 **The Time Tunnel.** Science fiction series about two time-trapped scientists, in this episode rocketed to the year 8433 to rescue a colleague kidnapped by spacemen

7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Anne Perkins. (Teletext) Weather

7.50 **Comment**

8.00 **Free For All.** Access series in which viewers decide the subject. This week a gay civil servant investigates sexual vetting and the truth of John Major's claim that homosexuality is no longer a bar to Foreign Office posts

8.30 **Bagdad Cafe.** Assembly line American comedy series based on Percy Adlon's cult film. Brenda (Whoopi Goldberg) is trapped in her run-down diner by a flash flood along with a bizarre collection of customers and staff (Teletext) (s)

9.00 **Secret History: Ratlines.**
● CHOICE: Given grisly topicality by recent events in Yugoslavia, Chris Plumley's film traces the secret route by which a Croatian war criminal Ante Pavelic was able to escape justice after the second world war and find sanctuary in Argentina. Implicated as early as 1934 in the assassination of the Yugoslav king, Pavelic became dictator of the Croatian puppet state set up by the Nazis and was responsible for the brutal murder of half a million people. When the war ended, he fled the country and disappeared. Plumley reveals how he was sheltered first by British intelligence and then by the Vatican. The story implicates two Popes and a Catholic priest working under the cover of the Red Cross. At the heart of the complicity was a paranoia, both within the British secret service and the Catholic Church, about the spread of communism. It is a shabby story, painstakingly reconstructed and enthrallingly told. (Teletext)

10.00 **Drop the Dead Donkey.** Rollicking topical comedy series set in a television newsroom

10.30 **Love Talk** presented by Carolyn Marshall. Tonight's programme examines the pain of rejection and how to cope with it

11.00 **LA Law.** Glossy American legal drama. Situentes defends the woman he loves when she is accused of murdering her brutal husband; and Van Owen is on the side of a teenager who killed his abusive father (r). (Teletext)

11.55 **A Week in Politics — Late Sitting** presented by Vincent Hanna and Andrew Rawnsley. Ends at 1.25am

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Superman 6.25-7.00 Anglia News 10.50 Anglia Tonight 11.40 Wideangle 12.10 Prisoner: Cell Block H 1.05-1.10 Pop Profile

BORDER

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 8.00 Lookaround Thursday 8.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.50 7th Heaven 11.20-11.50 Sing Something Scottish 12.40 Monte Carlo 2.25 America's Top Ten 2.55 Videofashion 3.20 Film: The Last Shot 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder

CENTRAL

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Blockbusters 6.25 Central News 6.55-7.00 Police 5 7.30-8.00 1st Night 10.50 Family Pride 11.20 Central Lobby 11.50 Film: First Affair 1.40 Video Views 2.10 Stand Up 2.40 Top Ten 3.10 Bhangra Beat 3.40 Raw Power 4.40 Grand Ole Opry 5.10-5.30 Jobs

GRANADA

As London except: 5.10pm-6.40 Blockbusters 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 7.30-8.00 The Granada Green Life Guide 10.50 Families 11.45 What's New 12.25 Rock Sport 12.40 Monte Carlo 2.25 America's Top Ten 2.55 Videofashion 3.20 Film: The Last Shot 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 A Country Practice 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 HTV West 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 Voyager — the World of National Geographic: Beating the Blizzards 10.50 The West This Week 11.20-11.50 Kraft General Foods World Cup Tennis

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Wales and Westminster 10.50 Say Yer Alphabet, Wee Dot 11.20-11.50 Voyager — the World of National Geographic

TSW

As London except: 3.23pm-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.50 A Man For the People 11.20 The Equalizer 12.15 The Twilight Zone 12.40 Monte Carlo 2.25 America's Top Ten 2.55 Videofashion 3.20 Film: The Last Shot (Virna Lisi, Charles Aznavour) 5.15-5.30 TSW Jobfinder

TVS

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.50 Facing South 11.20 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.20am-1.10 Matlock

TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Gardening Time 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 The Amateur Naturalist 10.50 Northern Eye 11.10 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.10 Coach 12.40 Monte Carlo 2.25 America's Top Ten 2.55 Videofashion 3.20 Film: The Last Shot 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder

ULSTER

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 3.25-3.55 Highdays and Holidays 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.55 Counterpoint 11.25 Money Talks 11.45 The Steam Rally 12.05am Alfred Hitchcock Presents 12.40 Monte Carlo 2.25 America's Top Ten 2.55 Videofashion 3.20 Film: The Last Shot 5.15-5.30 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Calendar Commentary 11.20 Film: Steelyard Blues 1.00 Elvis — Good Rockin' Tonight 1.30 Night Heat 2.30 America's Top Ten 3.00 CinemAttractions 3.30 Music Box 4.30-5.30 Jobfinder 11.20 Film: Steelyard Blues (Donald Sutherland, Jane Fonda, Howard Hesseman) 1.00 Elvis — Good Rockin' Tonight 1.30 Night Heat 2.30 America's Top Ten 3.00 CinemAttractions 3.30 Music Box 4.30-5.30 Jobfinder

S4C

Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily 9.25 Yegolion 12.00 The Parliament Programme 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Fifteen To One 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Third Wave 2.45 Film: A Thousand and One Nights 4.25 Slot 23 5.00 Willo The Wisp 5.50 The Oprah Winfrey Show 6.00 Newyddion 6.10 Heno 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm 7.30 Bwrw Mlaen 8.00 Graffiti 8.30 Newyddion 8.55 Fleo 9 9.30 Snwcer 10.00 Film: The Ladykillers 11.40 Drop The Dead Donkey 12.10 Love Talk 12.40 The Black Bag 1.10 Drwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 12.10pm Oreachtas Report 12.30 Look Here 1.00 News 1.30 Aertel Financial Pages 1.40 The Secret Life of Machines 2.05 The Love Boat 3.00 Live at Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 5.30 Carson's Law 5.15 Masterworks 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 6.45 Garda Patrol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 MacGyver 8.30 Would You Believe 9.00 News 9.30 Today Tonight 10.10 In Search of Genghis Khan 11.10 Booklines 11.35 News

NETWORK 2

Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.05 Cursai 7.25 Glenroe 8.00 News followed by Marketplace 8.30 Shakin' All Over 9.00 Murphy Brown 9.30 News followed by Knots Landing 10.30 Nighthawks 11.00 News

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot 8.55 Playabout 9.10 Cartoons 9.30 Mr Ed 10.00 Maude 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Barnaby Jones 1.30 Another World 2.15 Santa Barbara 2.45 Wife of the Week 3.15 The Brady Bunch 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Different Strokes 5.30 Bewitched 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 One False Move 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 Growing Pains 8.00 Full House 8.30 Murphy Brown 9.00 China Beach 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 Designing Women 11.00 Fashion TV 11.30 St Elsewhere 12.30am Rush

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour.
5.00am Sunrise 5.30 Newsline 6.00 Sunrise 9.30 Phone-In 10.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly 11.00 Daytime Hour 12.30pm CBS News 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Our World 3.30 Our World: The Countryside 4.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly 10.30 Newsline 11.30 CBS News 12.30am Newsline 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Those Were The Days 3.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly 4.30 *Financial Times* Business Weekly

SKY MOVIES+

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.00am Showcase, incl 8.40 Entertainment Tonight
10.00 Trading Hearts (1989). A former baseball player and a single mother begin a tentative romance
12.00 Millennium (1989). Cheryl Ladd travels back to the present from the year 2088 to prevent a paradox in time
2.00pm The Girl from Mani (1986). A young woman leaves her village to study in Athens
4.00 Her Last Best Year (1990) Psychodrama. Mary Tyler Moore helps Bernadette Peters come to terms with her terminal illness 5.40 Entertainment Tonight
6.00 Teen Wolf Too (1987) Comedy about a teenage werewolf (Jason Bateman)
7.30 Sky Movies Plus Special Event: WWF Survivor Series. WWF wrestling elimination contest at the Gerald Lous Arena in Detroit
11.15 Food of the Gods II (1989) Laboratory rats go on the rampage
12.45am Hardcase and Fist (1988): Martial arts thriller starring Ted Prior
2.20 China O'Brien (1989): Cynthia Rothrock uses her martial arts skills to solve a case in her home town
3.55 Roxanne: Prize Pulitzer (1988): Roxanne Pulitzer's account of the breakup of her marriage to the millionaire publishing tycoon. Ends at 5.30

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.25am Rope of Sand (1949, b/w): Desert adventure starring Burt Lancaster
8.15 Stand Up and Cheer (1934, b/w): Post-Depression entertainment revue
10.15 Son of Dracula (1943, b/w): Count Dracula (Lon Chaney Jr) claims Louise Allbritton as his bride
12.15pm State of the Union (1948, b/w): Presidential candidate Spencer Tracy woos his estranged wife (Katharine Hepburn)
2.15 Starchaser — The Legend of Orin (1985): Science fiction cartoon
4.15 Playing with Fire (1985): Gary Coleman stars as a juvenile arsonist
6.15 Fletch Lives (1989): The sleuthing journalist inherits a Mississippi plantation
8.05 The Adventures of Baron Munchausen (1989): Terry Gilliam's epic fantasy
10.15 The Big Man (1990): Bare-knuckle fighter Liam Neeson becomes embroiled in the Glasgow underworld
12.10am Wild at Heart (1990): David Lynch's road movie following the fortunes of two young lovers (Nicolas Cage, Laura Dern)
2.15 Revenge of the Radioactive Reporter (1989): An investigative reporter plunges into a vat of nuclear waste
3.40 Bates Motel (1987): Norman Bates bequeaths his motel to a fellow asylum inmate. Ends at 5.10

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

● Via the Astra satellite.
4.00pm Punky Brewster 4.30 Petticoat Junction 5.00 The New Leave It To Beaver 5.30 Greenacres 6.00 Here's Lucy 6.30 F Troop 7.00 McHale's Navy 7.30 The Addams Family 8.00 Dad's Army 8.30 It's Garry Shandling's Show 9.00 Hogan's Heroes 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 The Last Laugh 10.30 Barney Miller 11.00 Kids in the Hall 11.30 Laugh In

SKY SPORTS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. 6.30am Aerobics 7.00 Netbusters 7.30 Motorcross of Nations 8.30 Wheels 9.00 Aerobics 9.30 Survival of the Fittest 10.30 RAC Rally Update 11.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 12.00 FA Cup Football 2.00pm NFL American Football 4.00 Inside Tennis 5.00 WCW World Wide Wrestling 6.00 European League Round-Up 7.00 Red Line 8.00 World Professional Figure Skating 1993 10.00 NFL Today 11.00 RAC Rally 11.30 European League Round-Up 12.30am World Professional Figure Skating 1993

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
1.00pm Football European Cup 2.00 Eurolympics 2.30 Benelux Sport Magazine 3.00 RAC Rally 5.00 Equestrian Jumping 6.00 Motorsport News 6.30 Motor Cycling 7.00 Motocross 1000 Corsica 7.00 Trans World Sport 8.00 Motor Cycling Supercross 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Football Euro Cups 10.30 WTA Ladies' Tennis Magazine 11.00 Eurolympics 11.30 Eurosport News

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Lombard RAC Rally 8.00 Golf: Merrill Lynch Shootout 9.00 Spanish Football 9.30 Eurobics 10.00 Supercross 11.00 Matchroom Pro Box 1.00pm US College Football 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 Lombard RAC Rally 3.00 French Rugby League 4.00 1991 Grand Sumo Championship 5.00 NHRA Drag Racing 5.50 Johnnie Walker Golf Report 6.00 Argentine Football 7.00 Lombard RAC Rally 7.30 Formula One Grand Prix Films 8.00 Macau Grand Prix 1991 9.00 Spanish Football 10.30 Japanese Golf 12.00 Johnnie Walker Golf Report 12.10am US College Football

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am The Great American Gameshows 10.50 Coffee Break 10.55 Everyday Workout 11.25 Wok with Yan 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm Style File 12.55 Search for Tomorrow 1.20 The Rich Also Cry 2.20 Lifestyle Plus 2.30 Cyril Fletcher's Lifestyle Garden 2.55 Learned Friends 3.50 Tea Break 4.00 WKRP in Cincinatti 4.30 The Great American Gameshows 5.25 Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox

RADIO 1

6.55am Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Elgar (Introduction and Allegro); Chopin (Two Mazurkas, Op 33 Nos 1 and 2); Chaminade (Concertino, Op 107)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Johann Strauss, son (Tales from the Vienna Woods); Rachmaninov (Suite No 2, Op 17), Sarasate (Carmen Fantasy)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: W.F. Bach. Chorale Prelude, Jesu meine Freude (Leo van Doeselaar, organ); Trio Sonata in D (Klaus Pohlers, flute, Dieter Vorholz, violin, Uwe Zipperling, cello, Manfred Herbert Hoffmann, spinett); Chorale prelude, Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt (Leo van Doeselaar); Concerto for two harpsichords in E flat (Andreas Staier, Robert Hill; Musica Antiqua, Köln under Reinhard Goebel); Chorale Prelude, Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ (Leo van Doeselaar)
9.35 The Gypsy Muse: Brahms (Zigeunerlieder, Op 103: Anne Sofie von Otter, mezzo-soprano, Bengt Forsberg, piano), Haydn (Piano Concerto in D, H XVIII 11. Evgeny Kissin; Moscow Virtuosi under Vladimir Spivakov); Ravel (Tzigane: Ginette Neveu, violin, Jean Neveu, piano); Johann Strauss, son (Klänge der Heimat. Die Fledermaus, Act 2: Philharmonia under von Karajan, with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, soprano); Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody No 13 in A minor; Ferruccio Busoni, piano); Dvorák (Gipsy Melodies, Op 55: Brigitte Fassbaender, mezzo, Karl Engel, piano); Sarasate (Zigeunerweisen: RCA Victor SO under William Steinberg, with Jascha Heifetz, violin); Schubert (Divertissement à la Hongroise: Peter Wallfisch and Michael Freyhan, piano duet); Brahms, orch Dvorák (Hungarian Dances Nos 17-21: Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under Kurt Masur)
10.45 Berlin PO under Dennis Russell Davies performs Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor, K 466: Maria João Pires). Prokofiev (Symphony No 5 in E flat minor, Op 111)
12.00pm News
1.05 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert: Live from Studio One. Viram Jasani and Sanjay Jhaila play north Indian music on the sitar and tabla
2.00 Mozart on Record: In the last programme of the series, William Mival listens to interpretations of the Requiem
3.00 Thomas Rajna: The pianist plays Granados (Coloquio en la reja, Goyescas)
3.15 Samson et Dalila: Bavarian Radio Chorus and SO under Colin Davis perform Saint-Saëns's opera in three acts. Sung in French. With José Carreras, tenor, as Samson, and Agnes Baltsa, mezzo, as Dalila
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure, with Michael Berkeley
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear: The pianist Murray Perahia talks to Nicholas Kenyon
7.30 BBC SO under Mark Wigglesworth performs Mahler (Symphony No 10 — performing version by Deryck Cooke). Live from the Festival Hall, London
8.55 Don't Exaggerate: Howard Barker's narrative poem is subtitled "Desire and Abuse" and "A Political Statement in the Form of Hysteria". It was written for, and is read by, Ian McDiarmid (r)
9.25 Early Mozart, Early Beethoven: Christopher Kite plays the last of three programmes. Beethoven (Sonata in D, WoO 47 No 3); Mozart (Sonata in G, K 283)
9.55 Music in Our Time: Lontano under Odaline de la Martinez, with Henry Herford, baritone, performs Peter Child (Ensemblance); David Nicholls (Ensemble 8, Two Japanese Miniatures); Philip Grange (In a Dark Time)
11.00 The Tatum Touch: Alun Morgan presents the third of six programmes on the American pianist Art Tatum (r)
11.30 News
11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Ives (Orchestral Set No 2: The Alcotts; Thoreau: Concord Piano Sonata; Thoreau; Majority; They Are There) (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)
2.30-3.10 Night School Extra (also in Scotland): Working in German 1:3; 2.50 Working in German 1:4

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, incl 6.03 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Punters
9.45 As Others See Us: Jane Walmsley, the American broadcaster and author of *Brit-Think/Ameri-Think*, attempts to explain the different attitudes towards health and diet held by Britons and Americans
10.00-10.30am Sex, Lies and Audiotape (FM only): Bedtime Story. The fifth of six comedies by Simon Booker (s)
10.00 News; An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 The Bible (LW only): Judges. Read by Ian Hogg (final part)
10.30 Woman's Hour discusses primary school education, and looks at gardening in Zimbabwe, incl 11.00 News
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Hoax Chairman Tim Brooke-Taylor has to guess whether Derek Nimmo, Irene Thomas or Ian Wallace is telling the tallest story (s)
12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; Almost Always African
● CHOICE: Somewhere in Anne Caulfield's comedy about a Gambian musician transplanted in London where he finds fame and fortune but no cultural *rapprochement*, there is a good play struggling to assert itself. Caulfield, who has not written a radio play before, has not yet acquired a strong enough grip to prevent her material running away from her. She is, however, experienced at putting words into the mouth of the comedian Lenny Henry, and since it is he who plays the disorientated Gambian in *Almost Always African*, there is nothing to complain about in that department (s)
3.00 Down Your Way (FM only): Hugh Scully visits Falmouth (r)
3.40-4.00 Poetry Please! (FM only) (s)
3.00 News; Prime Minister's Questions (LW only)
4.00 News
4.05 Kaleidoscope: Peter Holland reviews the Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*; the Australian novelist Thomas Keneally returns to Ireland in his new book, *Now and In Time To Be*; and the Brodsky Quartet performs live in the studio (s)
4.45 Short Story: Blame It on the Pilgrims, by Anne Leaton. Read by Liza Ross
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Litmus Test (s) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 One Step Beyond: Designer Genes. Chris Serle investigates the new biotechnologies that are creeping into the livestock industry
8.00 Analysis: A Pleasing Prospect? Detter Helm asks whether a national, bureaucratic approach is the best way to deal with pollution control in Britain
8.45 The Answer Lies in the Soil: The Crack Man. In the fifth of six programmes, Martin Wainwright looks at the effects of mining subsidence on a small village
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for disabled listeners
9.30 Kaleidoscope (s) (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight (s) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: What Hetty Did, by J.L. Carr. Read by Hetty Baynes (7 of 10) (r)
11.00 Killing Orders: Fourth of a six-part dramatisation of Sara Paretsky's novel. With Kathleen Turner and Martin Shaw (s)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast 12.43 World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m;909kHz/330m;FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm.
6.00am World Service Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 For Schools Let's Make a Story: 9.15 Together; 9.35 Listening and Reading 1 9.45 The Song Tree: 10.00 In the News 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 10.40 Angela Rippon with The Health Show Tel. 0345 909693 12.30pm House of Stars Keren Woodward of Bananarama (r) 1.00 News Update 1.15 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (r) 1.30 BFBS Worldwide: Simon and the Squad 2.30 World Service International Call, 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Meridian Feature 4.05 Assignment 4.35 Five Aside 7.15 The Conjuror's Game 7.30 Talking Poetry (r) 8.00 Formula Five 8.30 Vibe! with Caron Keating 9.30 The Cabaret of Doctor Caligari 10.00 News, Sport 10.10 Eastern Beat, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00-12.10am News, Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am World Business Report 4.40 Travel and Weather News 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 Morgenmagazin 5.20 Tips für Touristen 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe Today 5.59 Weather 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30

Khmer Rouge leader flees

Continued from page 1

tenant to the real power behind the Khmer Rouge, the notorious Pol Pot, stood up from an armchair in which he had been sitting.

Perhaps it was Khieu Samphan's finest hour. He turned to the mob, mostly young men, and faced them with dignity, standing erect, eye-witnesses said.

"The people wanted to kill him but when they saw him they took pity on him," a security man supplied by the Phnom Penh regime later told *The Times*. Then one man lunged forward and hit the Khmer Rouge leader on the head with an iron bar. Khieu Samphan sank to the ground and hugged an attaché case in front of him. Then a Khmer Rouge bodyguard tried to shelter him by putting his arms around him, and the mob surged forward and punched and kicked him.

Outside, Hun Sen, prime minister, of the Phnom Penh regime, appealed to the crowd through a loud-hailer not to lynch the Khmer Rouge leader, but was largely ignored by people who seemed to want blood. Khieu Samphan and other Khmer Rouge officials was later taken to the airport in an armoured personnel carrier. After talks with the prime minister, he climbed slowly up the stairs into a special plane with Russian pilots supplied by the government and took off for Bangkok.

Later, the government said it had tried to prevent demonstrations but had failed. It announced it still remained faithful to the Paris accords which call for the presence of a United Nations peace-keeping force and UN-supervised elections. The events of yesterday show how difficult — and possibly bloody — the UN mission will be. The government statement was also insincere, in that the demonstrations of the last two days, which were officially organised, set the tone for the violence that followed.

Villagers from near the airport said they had been told to go to the main road and shout slogans against Khieu Samphan. And students from several schools also demonstrated carrying placards depicting a skull and crossbones and saying "Pol Pot — murderer." At the airport arrival yesterday, Mak Ben, a Khmer Rouge official, had said there would be no problems over security.



Final tributes: among the mourners at Mercury's funeral service yesterday were, clockwise from top, his sister Kashmira with their parents Bomi and Jer Bulsara, foreground; Dave Clark and Mary Austin; Elton John; Brian May and Anita Dobson

'Forgotten boy' begins new life

Continued from page 1

have a system to check everything. It would take a massive bureaucracy." He added: "At this stage there is no evidence to suggest that the mother was suffering from a psychiatric disorder. It is quite clear that children do best if they can stay with their own families. They should only be separated if there is a critical issue and that would be a decision for the courts."

Mr Gatehous said it appeared the boy's educational development was about normal for his age. "If that is right, it is part of the bonding that has gone on. That is why I am saying we will not smash them up. It is important where possible to maintain the family unit."

The boy appears to have been a virtual prisoner in the house which until recently was also occupied by his grandparents. Apart from occasions when he was glimpsed in the rubbish-strewn garden, he was never from his mother's side and never with other children.

Patricia Fox, a neighbour, said: "I sometimes saw them walk hand-in-hand even at two or three o'clock in the morning. If I did say hello the boy would just smile but never answer. Once, when I asked his mother about him, she said he was hyperactive and was being educated privately.

"Sometimes I would see the mother walking along the road with cardboard boxes. I thought they probably contained clothes but now I realise she must have been carrying animals.

"When she was young she went to the same school as my stepdaughter but she was always a recluse — a very secretive girl. She would never accept invitations to birthday parties.

She added: "It caused a mini scandal when she turned up one day with the child."

Another neighbour, Maysie Davey, said: "Although she never spoke to me, she appeared to be a good mother and the boy always looked clean."

Mr Gatehous said: "I'm very sad and perplexed to hear no one reported the fact they walked around in the early hours but we don't like to pry too much and we don't like being too belligerent."

The county council will convene a case committee to determine whether the mother and child should be allowed to stay together.

Farewell to Mercury

FREDDIE Mercury, the rock star who died the day after publicly admitting that he had Aids, was cremated yesterday during a simple ceremony attended by his family and friends at West London crematorium (Richard Duce writes).

Roger Taylor, Brian May and John Deacon, members of Mercury's band Queen, were joined by Elton John, Dave Clarke, the former pop star and Mary Austin, a former girl friend. The flowers covered more than a quarter of an acre.

Kissing warning, page 8

Political sketch

Finding a place for everyone

IT seems that John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, has thrown a wobbly: and we must sympathise.

It was Phillip Oppenheim (C, Amber Valley) who spread the news. "Last night," he told the Speaker, there was "a disgraceful affront to a leading member of this House ...

"The hon member for Hull East went to the annual dinner of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, only to find that a place had not been laid for him. He was understandably aggrieved, tore a strip off staff — in front of *royalty* — and stormed out."

What, asked Oppenheim, whose concern, of course, was purely friendly, could Mr Speaker do to sort this out?

Little, it seemed. "With the best will in the world I cannot be held responsible for what goes on at dinner parties, thank goodness," was the reply.

I wonder why not? MPs, despite their reputation for the high-life, live for the most part wearisome existences on rather limited incomes. When they dine well it is almost always at somebody else's feast. Their glasses may occasionally be raised in a champagne toast, smoked salmon roulade has been known to pass their lips, but this has been provided by Lord King, explaining to MPs the inequities of airport landing charges.

These jollies can be fun for MPs. I know some who live entirely on Twiglets and nuts. But the fun is limited by the need to lend a polite ear to their host's concerns. As they leave, an information pack will be politely handed to each guest. This is what the feast was for. It was not their party. It was not really *about* them.

And that is the singular attraction, for MPs, of the *Spectator* "parliamentarian of the year" awards lunch, co-sponsored by Highland Park Scotch whisky, and held yesterday in hospitable circumstances at the Savoy Hotel. It is all about them. We, the other guests, have come to ask not what our MPs can do for us, but to see what Highland Park whisky can do for them. Here at the Savoy, after the most delicate reminder — more a hint than a speech — of the problems faced by the Scotch whisky industry, MPs were allowed one glorious hour in which to make speeches about each other, and themselves, and nothing else.

The best speech was from Dave Nellist, the Coventry MP who faces expulsion from the Labour Party for his alleged links with Militant. But, before it, your sketchwriter found himself in extraordinary company.

Picking at the *petits fours* at a table with Sir Geoffrey Howe, who had arrived in a limousine, the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, who had arrived in a motor-boat, and Dave Nellist, who had arrived in an anorak, was a moment never to be forgotten. Interposed between Nellist himself (pallid sentinel of the rough-sleeping classes) and Nick Budgen (Tory tribune of the metal-bashing classes), Peregrine Worsthorne (bow-tied soothsayer to the smooth-sleeping classes) formed a decorative ideological buffer-zone.

But Budgen was sympathetic to Nellist's plight. "In a way," he said "people like me are the Dave Nellists of the Tory Party. We both speak for interests who need a voice at Westminster".

It was not at first easy to see the sardonic barrister, parliamentary mascot of the Meynell hunt, as the Dave Nellist of his party, so I asked Mr Budgen if he would explain.

"If you believe in proportional representation, which I do not, then that leaves the major parties free to woo the soggy centre. But first-past-the-post yields just two great parties, so they need to contain more than the centre. Otherwise, who is to speak for the poorest, the outcasts, the angry youth — if not the likes of Mr Nellist?

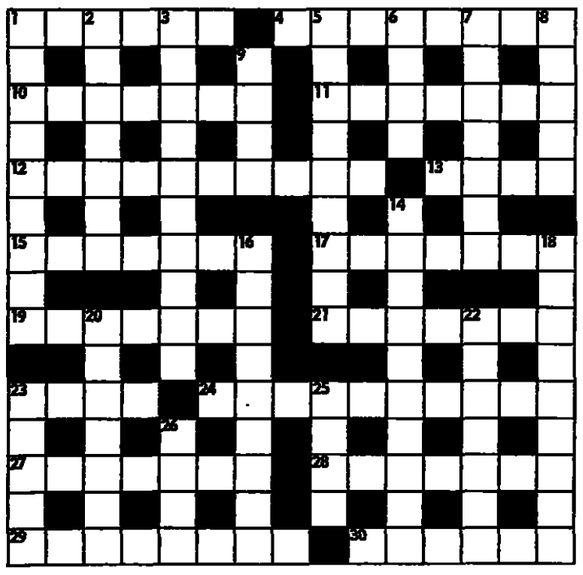
"And who is to speak for the ..." — Budgen paused to choose his words carefully — "the more ... *robust* elements on the right among our constituents, if not the likes of me? It's two-way: I can tell parliament what they think: and I explain to them what parliament thinks. Nellist, too, is a bridge: to people who are economically dispossessed and, without him, would be politically dispossessed too. You only have to look at Germany to see the danger when extremists are dispossessed.

"It's a shame, what Labour have done to him".

Nellist judged the mood well when he spoke. He was funny, sharp and defiant. So, come to think of it, is Budgen. Can we keep them both, please?

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,775



ACROSS

1 Intended to provide money for dropping first name (6).
4 What conifers can produce (3-5).
10 Declamation in chapel (7).
11 Animal needs place to spread out (7).
12 Carpet beater will make a fuss (5,1,4).
13 26 bears skinned (4).
15 Dragged sound horse inside and bargained for it (7).
17 Apt to feel strongly in the future, perhaps (7).
19 Time passed quickly on the way back, producing happiness (7).
21 Expression that's stern — one . . . (7).
23 . . . you solemnly measure (4).
24 Outlaw was young — 22 (6,4).
27 Found American state with one African dog (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,774

K	O	S	H	E	R		H	E	R	O	S	M	A	N
	P		E		E		I		E		N		M	
M	E	T	A	C	A	R	P	U	S		A	D	A	M
	R		R		L		P		E		I		Z	
M	A	R	T	E	L	L	O		A	L	L	I	E	D
		H		Y		C		R				M		
S	P	U	R			R	I	C	O	C	H	E	T	
	E		U		N		A		H		A		N	
F	R	A	G	R	A	N	T				R	I	T	E
	F				P		I		J		B			
P	O	N	C	H	O		C	H	E	Q	U	E	R	S
	R		E		L		O		W		N		A	
B	A	R	D		E	V	A	N	E	S	C	E	N	T
	T		A		O		T		S		L		C	
R	E	T	R	E	N	C	H		S	E	E	T	H	E

ACROSS

28 Flatiron — not one used in the making of altar cloth (7).
29 Corresponding exactly to a square, by the sound of it (3-2-3).
30 Just a note to bank (6).

DOWN

1 Baffles Indian greeting the entertainment (5,4).
2 It's stimulating but intimidating, holding the top honours (7).
3 Crossing roads, 100 left on the other side (6-4).
5 50% of ginger snaps I crumble, by the way (2,7).
6 A visit is an occasion (4).
7 Shortened piano music forms part of matins (7).
8 Take industrial action, but go the wrong way about it (3,2).
9 Looked very seedy, oddly absent (4).
14 Walk out — and in — to achieve the desired effect (6,4).
16 Expert on food colouring, we hear — an artist (9).
18 English bird takes a mate for ever (9).
20 Survey beauty — examine only the outward appearance (4-3).
22 One supporting a new cause is disposed to lapse (7).
23 Prohibited army demonstration of disapproval (5).
25 Italian, upset, noisily spat (4).
26 Release a selection from "The sound of music" (4).

Concise Crossword, page 19

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NEO-GEO
a. Structuralist geography
b. American Environmentalists
c. An artistic movement

ULOSIS
a. Weeping and wailing
b. A species of porcupine
c. The formation of a scar

DONGA
a. A wild dog
b. A stamping dance in line
c. Gully made by erosion

BRIDOON
a. Display of wedding presents
b. A light military snaffle
c. A tribal law court

Answers on page 20

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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Complete Traveller

WEATHER

Most of England and Wales will turn cloudy and misty with fog lifting during the morning. Patchy light rain will spread slowly from the north into eastern England, the Midlands, south Wales, southwest England and parts of the southeast with Kent remaining dry until late evening. Cloud and rain over southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will move into northern England and north Wales. Northern Scotland will be brighter with showers. Sunny intervals will develop over eastern Scotland. Outlook: Changeable.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	t	Majorca	18	64	s
Akrotiri	19	66	c	Malaga	20	68	s
Alex'dria	19	66	r	Malta	18	64	f
Algiers	22	72	s	Melb'rne	17	63	f
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Mexico C*	17	63	s
Athens	14	57	c	Miami*	23	73	f
Bahrain	23	73	s	Milan	7	45	fg
Bangkok	32	90	f	Montreal*	-1	30	f
Barbados*	27	81	s	Moscow	0	32	d
Barcelna	15	59	f	Munich	1	34	s
Beirut	21	70	c	Nairobi	23	73	s
Belgrade	10	50	c	Naples	16	61	s
Bermuda*	20	68	c	N Delhi	25	77	s
Biarritz	16	61	s	N York*	4	39	s
Borde'x	14	57	s	Nice	16	61	s
Brussels	9	48	s	Oslo	8	46	f
Budapst	9	48	c	Paris	9	48	s
B Aires*	20	68	f	Perth	28	82	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Prague	3	37	c
Cape Tn	23	73	f	Reykjavik	3	37	c
Chicago*	3	37	f	Rhodes	17	63	s
Cologne	7	45	f	Rio de J	32	90	s
C'phagn	5	41	c	Rome	13	55	s
Corfu	16	61	s	Salzburg	1	34	f
Dublin	10	50	f	S F'risco*	14	57	s
Faro	18	64	c	Santiago*	28	84	s
Florence	7	45	f	S Paulo*	31	88	c
Frankfurt	1	34	c	Sing'pore	25	77	t
Funchal	15	59	r	St'kholm	6	43	c
Geneva	2	36	fg	Strasb'rg	0	32	fg
Gibraltar	17	63	f	Sydney	20	68	c
Helsinki	5	41	c	Tangier	16	61	s
Hong K	20	68	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	f
Innsbrck	5	41	s	Tenerife	18	64	c
Istanbul	9	48	c	Tokyo	12	54	f
Jo'burg*	27	81	f	Toronto*	-1	30	sn
Karachi	31	88	s	Tunis	19	66	s
L Palmas	20	68	f	Valencia	15	59	f
Lisbon	14	57	s	Vanc'ver*	8	46	c
Locarno	12	54	s	Venice	12	54	s
London	11	52	c	Vienna	7	45	c
L Angels*	21	70	s	Warsaw	5	41	c
Luxembg	6	43	s	Wash'ton*	4	39	f
Luxor	28	82	s	Wel'mton	15	59	f
Madrid	12	54	s	Zurich	1	34	fg

* denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.29	2.14
Austria Sch	21.05	19.55
Belgium Fr	61.60	57.60
Canada $	2.13	1.97
Denmark Kr	11.61	10.86
Finland Mkk	8.24	7.64
France Fr	10.20	9.50
Germany Dm	2.985	2.785
Greece Dr	346.00	321.00
Hong Kong $	14.33	13.33
Ireland Pt	1.12	1.05
Italy Lira	2260.00	2110.00
Japan Yen	247.50	228.50
Netherlands Gld	3.36	3.14
Norway Kr	11.81	11.01
Portugal Esc	265.00	247.00
South Africa Rd	5.15	4.55
Spain Pta	189.50	175.50
Sweden Kr	11.05	10.25
Switzerland Fr	2.64	2.47
Turkey Lira	9200.00	8400.00
USA $	1.86	1.735
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	40.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36F). Rain 24hr to 6 pm, nil Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.4hr

ENGLAND AND WALES

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.9	-	10	50	cloudy
Anglesey	1.0	.03	12	54	drizzle
Aviemore	0.1	.02	9	48	cloudy
Belfast	1.3	.01	10	50	bright
Birmingham	0.5	-	12	54	cloudy
Bognor Regis	-	.12	11	52	dull
Bournemouth	0.9	.02	13	55	cloudy
Bristol	3.9	-	14	57	bright
Cardiff	3.5	-	13	55	sunny
Colwyn Bay	2.8	-	13	55	bright
Cromer	1.4	-	10	50	bright
Douglas	-	.08	11	52	rain
Eastbourne	-	.31	11	52	cloudy
Edinburgh	0.2	.02	11	52	shower
Exmouth	1.5	-	13	55	bright
Folkestone	-	.07	11	52	cloudy
Glasgow	0.1	.05	11	52	shower
Guernsey	0.3	.01	12	54	cloudy
Hastings	-	.32	11	52	cloudy
Jersey	0.6	.11	11	52	cloudy
Kinloss	0.6	-	10	50	cloudy
Leeds	4.6	-	13	55	bright
Lerwick	0.1	.02	10	50	shower
London	-	.01	12	54	cloudy
Lowestoft	-	.11	10	50	dull
Manchester	2.6	-	12	54	sunny
Morecambe	1.4	-	12	54	cloudy
Newquay	1.3	-	13	55	bright
Nottingham	3.6	-	12	54	bright
Penzance	0.8	-	13	55	cloudy
Plymouth	3.0	-	14	57	bright
Prestwick	0.4	.04	11	52	shower
Salcombe	1.7	-	15	59	cloudy
Sandown	-	.09	11	52	cloudy
Scilly Isles	-	-	12	54	thundr
Shanklin	-	.09	11	52	dull
St. Ives	0.5	-	13	55	cloudy
Stornoway	3.1	.11	8	46	shower
Swansea	0.9	.07	13	55	cloudy
Teignmouth	2.6	-	14	57	bright
Tiree	3.3	.32	10	50	shower
Torquay	0.8	-	15	59	bright
Worthing	-	.19	11	52	cloudy

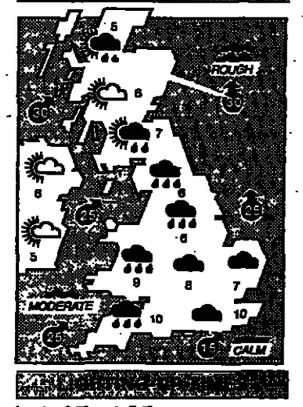
These are Tuesday's figures

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

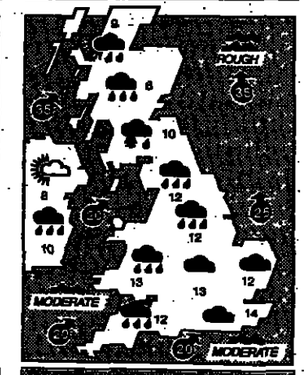
Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.



London 3.58 pm to 7.40 am
Bristol 4.08 pm to 7.50 am
Edinburgh 3.48 pm to 8.15 am
Manchester 3.57 pm to 7.58 am
Penzance 4.25 pm to 7.56 am

Sun rises: 7.39 am
Sun sets: 3.56 pm
Moon sets 12.21 pm
Moon rises 11.58 pm
Last quarter 3.21 pm

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.2 hr.



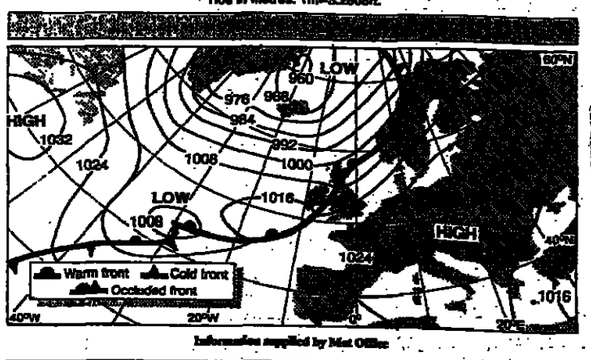
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	7	45	f	Guernsey	12	54	s
B'ningham	10	50	d	Inverness	8	46	f
Blackpool	9	48	s	Jersey	9	48	fg
Bristol	11	52	d	London	11	52	c
Cardiff	11	52	d	M'chester	9	48	c
Edinburgh	9	48	f	Newcastle	9	48	s
Glasgow	10	50	f	P'mbeyay	11	52	c

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.47 in; highest sunshine: Skegness, Lincolnshire, 5.4 hr.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6.04	6.5	6.43	6.7	Liverpool	3.35	8.4	3.59	8.6
Aberdeen	6.12	3.9	6.18	3.9	Lowestoft	1.16	2.5	2.37	2.2
Avonmouth	11.42	11.8			Margate	4.10	4.5	4.56	4.4
Belfast	3.43	3.0	3.56	3.4	Milford Haven	10.52	6.2	11.29	5.8
Cardiff	11.27	10.9			Newquay	9.49	6.3	10.28	5.9
Devonport	10.12	5.0	10.55	4.7	Oban	10.14	3.4	11.20	3.1
Dover	3.19	6.1	3.53	5.8	Penzance	9.25	5.1	10.11	4.7
Falmouth	9.42	4.8	10.25	4.5	Portland	11.04	2.0		
Glasgow	5.06	4.6	5.07	5.2	Portsmouth	4.18	4.5	4.28	4.3
Harwich	3.52	3.7	4.33	3.7	Shoreham	3.32	5.5	3.56	4.5
Holyhead	2.49	4.9	3.08	5.2	Southampton	3.25	4.3	3.43	4.1
Hull	10.54	8.5	10.58	8.7	Swansea	10.52	6.3	11.29	7.8
Ilfracombe	10.31	8.2	11.09	7.7	Tees	8.30	4.8	8.42	4.9
King's Lynn	11.18	6.7	11.21	5.9					

Tide in metres: 1m=3.280ft.



Information supplied by Met Office

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هكذا من الاصل

TODAY IN BUSINESS

UNIMPRESSED



Sir Robert Scholey of British Steel is not best pleased at the European decision to allow the French to subsidise a state-owned steel company
Page 27

FINAL WHISTLE

Hopes rose of an end to the long dispute between Chelsea Football Club and its landlord. But the deal would end football at Craven Cottage, the Fulham FC ground
Page 36

OILS NOT WELL



Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister of Norway, presides over vast oil wealth but a sharply deteriorating economy
Page 29

LOSS BITES

Hambros, the merchant bank, suffered a 12 per cent fall in pre-tax profits due to losses of £4 million at Hambro Countrywide, its 51 per cent-owned estate agency
Tempus, page 26

SIGNING OFF



Sir Richard Attenborough is retiring from Capital Radio next year. The new chairman will be Ian Irvine, deputy chief executive of Reed
Page 25

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7692 (–0.0278)
German mark
2.8573 (+0.0121)
Exchange index
90.4 (–0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1867.9 (–19.8)
FT-SE 100
2447.5 (–24.0)
New York Dow Jones
2905.41 (–10.73)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
22973.28 (–138.81)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10½%
3-month interbank 10⅝-10½%
3-month eligible bills 10$^{3}/_{32}$-10$^{5}/_{32}$%
US: Prime Rate 7½%
Federal Funds 4⅝*
3-month Treasury Bills 4.40-4.39%*
30-year bonds 100$^{9}/_{16}$-100$^{11}/_{32}$*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.7680	£: $1.7675*
£: DM2.8562	$: DM1.6165*
£: SwFr2.5238	$: SwFr1.4270*
£: FFr9.7602	$: FFr5.5200*
£: Yen229.93	$: Yen130.25*
£ Index 90.4	$ Index 83.2
ECU £0.71333:	SDR £0.779191
£: ECU1.401873	£: SDR1.283382

London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $366.50 pm $367.10
close $367.00-367.50 (£207.25-207.75)
New York:
Comex $368.15-368.65*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) $19.70 bbl ($19.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135 : October (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

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Clean-ups 'are being undermined'

Water chief slams political interference

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE government is undermining its own plans to improve the quality of water and the environment by using political pressure to interfere with water regulation, Bob Thian, chief executive of North West Water, has claimed.

North West is angry that the water companies have been obliged to cut permitted price rises after only one year in the wake of unexpectedly high 1990-1 profits, although the price regime was intended to last at least five years. The sharp fall in inflation and high interest rates that produced some of the gains are, the industry believes, likely to be reversed in the coming year.

Mr Thian said short-term political pressure could corrupt the regulatory regime the government had itself set up and convert it into control of the rate of return earned by utilities, a system the government had rightly rejected at the time of privatisation.

Mr Thian's comments echo growing resistance from privatised utilities and institutional investors to increasing political pressure to change regulatory regimes in order to cut prices immediately, introduce competition artificially and to control management pay.

Mr Thian said the high profits earned last year should have been used as an opportunity to speed up investment to improve public health. He estimated that North West had the management resources to invest 50 per cent faster in cleaning up water, sewage and beaches if it was allowed the funds to do so and claimed that people in the region wanted the clean-up as quickly as possible. Instead, the industry was under pressure to delay investment.

"Considerable political pressures were exerted publicly on the water industry and the economic regulator to agree lower price increases next year for the customer", said Mr Thian, who estimated the agreed cuts would save the average North West customer only 70p a year.

"The real results were to interfere with the relationship of trust between the regulator and the industry, an unnecessary and arbitrary increase in the risks to the business and the consequent damage to investors' and lenders' confidence in the water industry."

Mr Thian made it clear his quarrel was not principally with Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, but with the hue and cry from politicians.

Changes in the regulatory regime have been at the centre of debate over the government's sale of BT shares next month, causing a sharp fall in BT's share price in recent weeks. British Gas has threatened to take its case to the monopolies commission after successive new plans to break up its business and extend regulation and competition while retaining its unique statutory obligations.

Mr Thian said the 5 per cent fall in metered use of water over the summer recorded by North West and several other water groups had shown the industry was not recession-proof and was equivalent to a loss of 1 per cent on prices. North West still reported a 7.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £124 million yesterday, after lifting investment to £260 million, and has raised its interim dividend by 9 per cent.

Water results, page 25
Comment, page 27

Government censured on Rover sale to BAe

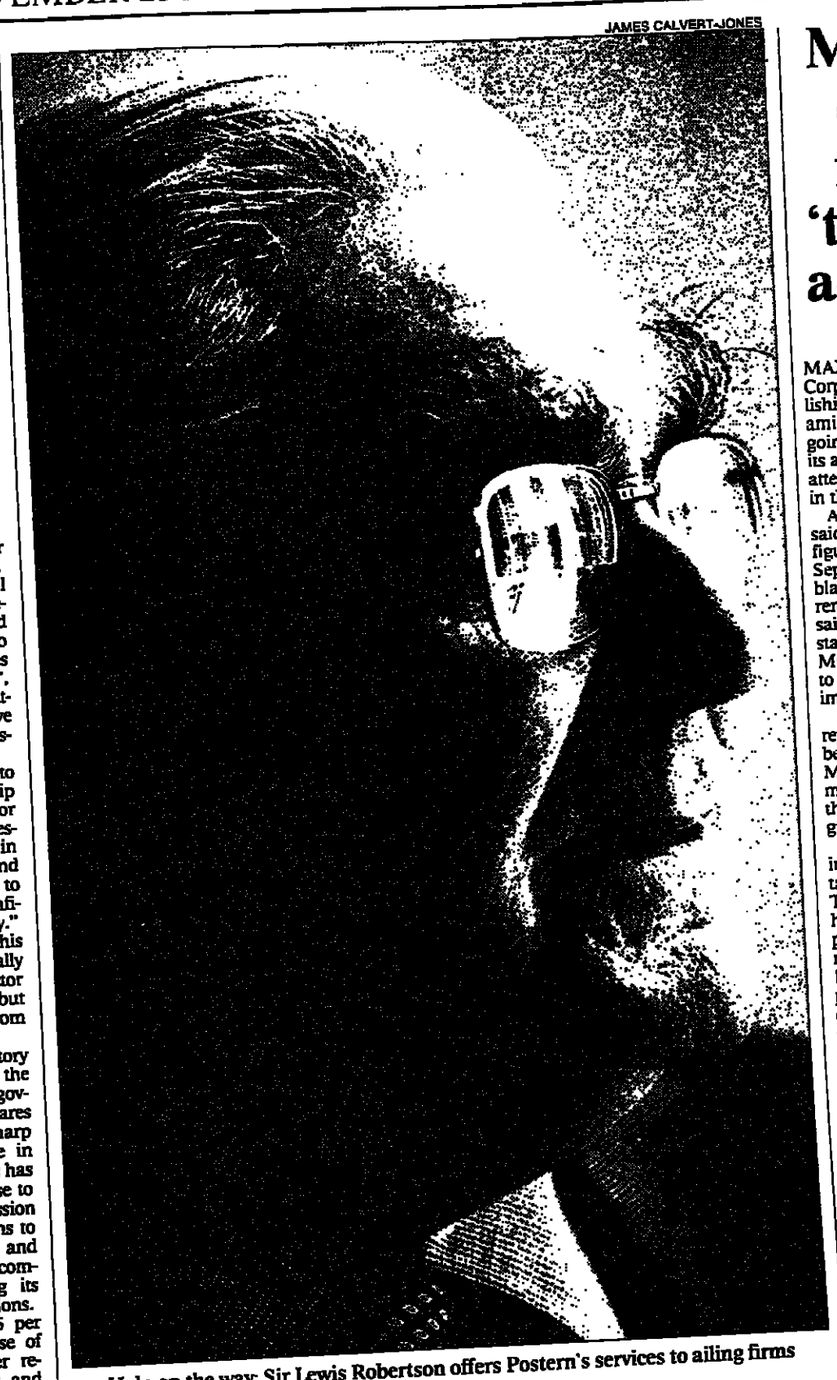
BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMMONS committee censured the government for its handling of the Rover sale to British Aerospace. Ministers were effectively warned to take more care to obey the law over privatisations.

Delivering its verdict on the 1988 sale, the public accounts committee found there had been faults at almost every stage of the privatisation. The committee said ministers had failed to give MPs sufficient information on the final terms of the sale, directing its main criticism at the trade department.

BAe paid £150 million for Rover after a £547 million government cash injection into the carmaker to meet its debts and support its investment programme. The taxpayer, the committee said, had provided £2.9 billion in interest-free capital to support Rover and its predecessor, British Leyland.

The Rover saga damaged the reputation of Lord Young of Graffham, a former industry secretary, when it emerged that BAe had received some £38 million in hidden "sweeteners" to take over Rover. The European Commission later ordered the company to repay more than £44 million.



JAMES CALVERT-JONES

Help on the way: Sir Lewis Robertson offers Postern's services to ailing firms

Doctors to the rescue

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of well known company doctors has joined forces to offer advice to the many companies that are facing financial collapse in the recession.

The group, led by Sir Lewis Robertson, has formed Postern Executive Group, which aims to be a one-stop advice shop for ailing companies.

Postern's list of executives includes some of the most successful names in the world of the corporate rescue. Sir Lewis himself is currently overseeing the reorganiation of Stakis, the hotel group. Aside from him there is Trevor Swete, the former head of corporate finance at Hill Samuel, as managing director, and Ken Scobie and Archie Coulson as executive directors.

Mr Scobie is the mastermind behind the rescue of Brent Walker, while Mr Coulson is helping to save what remains of Eagle Trust.

Most executives are happy to hold down one job, particularly one as time-consuming as corporate rescue. This has been no hindrance to Postern, however, which is keen to help in a range of financial disasters. A spokesman said: "These chaps are capable of walking and chewing gum at the same time."

Postern is the first corporate rescue specialist in Britain and is being backed by Tufton Investments from Sweden. The firm is offering its services to companies with debt problems. After an initial look, the firm will produce a recovery plan. If it is accepted, the executives will expect to be given management control to carry the plans out. Postern's fees are negotiable but will often be related to its success.

The firm hopes to be able to take on small rescue situations which until now have often ended in the hands of the receiver, as well as large public companies. Postern says it is already talking to two troubled businesses, and will start to recruit a team of executives once work begins to flow in.

The recession has highlighted the work of the company doctor, who until now has worked on his own. Two months ago, David James, the head of Davies & Newman, the airline operator, demonstrated the benefit of employing a company doctor when he successfully completed its refinancing at the end of a year-long struggle.

Comment, page 27

Maxwell delays results 'to revise accounts'

BY NEIL BENNETT

MAXWELL Communication Corporation has delayed publishing its half-year results amid reports that it is undergoing a complete revision of its accounting practices in an attempt to recapture favour in the City.

A statement from MCC said it would not publish its figures for six months to end-September, as planned today, blaming the move on "current circumstances". MCC said it would make a further statement within two weeks. MCC's shares slumped 10p to 45p on worries about the implications of the action.

In the City, there were reports that the delay had been insisted on by Kevin Maxwell, MCC's new chairman, who is planning a thorough review of the group's accounting policy.

Analysts had been expecting MCC to announce a pre-tax profit of up to £75 million. The figure would, however, have included an exceptional profit of an estimated £50 million on the disposal of Pergamon, the scientific book publisher. This had been denounced by many analysts since they believed Pergamon should have been treated as a one-off, extraordinary item.

Analysts have been scathing about MCC's accounting, in particular its habit of treating foreign currency and investment gains as profits. Last year, the group's half-year operating profits fell £4 million to £130 million, but pre-tax profits rose 6 per cent to £90.1 million due to a £45.7 million contribution from currency gains.

The City also wants MCC to provide it with a full explanation of its disposal programme, and the group's plans to float its North American interests, which are thought to have been shelved.

One analyst suggested that the interim figures will also include large asset write-downs that would lead to substantial losses.

MCC's move comes as bankers continue to negotiate over reorganisation of the Maxwell family's interests. The banking steering committee is holding talks with N M Rothschild, the merchant bank advising the family.

Confident Lamont says recovery has started

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY AND COLIN NARBROUGH

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, yesterday told MPs that he was still convinced the economic recovery had started. But he gave warning that homeowners, businesses and entire industries would continue to suffer the hardships of recession even after a general recovery had technically begun.

Responding to questioning from the Commons treasury committee, Mr Lamont said that the Treasury's generally favourable forecasts in the autumn statement, three weeks ago, were perfectly consistent with the disappointing statistics on retail sales, manufacturing output and GDP published in the past few weeks.

He also maintained that expressions of gloom by company chairmen, consumers and business leaders might continue for months after the economy had started growing. The housing market could also remain in the doldrums and repossessions could go on rising.

Despite this pessimistic gloss on the Treasury's forecast recovery, the Chancellor rejected suggestions that interest rates were still too high.

On the prospects for sterling and European monetary union, Mr Lamont said an agreement at Maastricht was "not a foregone conclusion", but he rejected suggestions that a breakdown at Maastricht would precipitate a sterling crisis. "Come what may, we will maintain our position in the ERM and do whatever was necessary to that end," he said.



Lamont: questioned

Fears of Soviet unrest and mounting international pressure against higher German interest rates combined to undermine the mark and allow the dollar to recover sharply yesterday.

The dollar rebound of almost 3.5 pfennigs came in spite of American data indicating that the economy was stagnant, or heading for a fourth-quarter decline. Caught in the crossfire, the pound fell steeply against the dollar but advanced against the mark, buoyed by the Chancellor's assurances that sterling would be firmly defended within the ERM.

At the London close, sterling was 1.25 pfennigs higher at DM2.8562, after a low of DM2.84.

Against the dollar it shed 2.8 cents to $1.7680.

Clowes denies laundering £6m

BY OUR CITY STAFF

PETER Clowes, the former investment chief, was accused of "criminally laundering" millions of pounds belonging to savers. He tried to cover up that he had stolen their money, said Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting at the Old Bailey.

But Mr Clowes, aged 48, who denies fraud and theft charges arising out of the collapse of his fund management empire three-and-a-half years ago, said neither allegation was true. Spending his eighth day in the witness box, Mr Clowes told the court how, as part of his Jersey partnership's "discretionary investment" strategy, he used £6 million of investors' funds to buy brewery shares.

To protect "client confidentiality", the money was moved through two accounts, one of which was private. Mr Clowes said part of the money came from two Barlow Clowes International investors' accounts in Gibraltar which had been on deposit with the partnership.

Because the deal was "substantial and high-profile" and the Inland Revenue had been looking at BCI, he wanted a "belt and braces" operation — "two walls" between the source of the funds and their destination — in order to provide the banker's confidentiality he felt he owed his clients. But Mr Suckling said: "It is simply you trying to hide the fact that you were stealing money."

Mr Clowes replied: "Absolutely not. I totally disagree. There was no question of my stealing. The client had a contractual right . . . and that was always honoured." Mr Suckling went on: "It is a laundering." Mr Clowes: "No, it is not." Mr Suckling added: "I suggest a criminal laundering." Mr Clowes: "I absolutely deny that."

Mr Clowes, of Wilmslow, Cheshire, denies nine charges under the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958. Eight allege he made false statements to induce investments from named individuals involving sums up to £400,000. On the ninth, he is jointly charged with Peter Naylor, aged 35, of Send Barns, Send, Surrey, and Guy von Cramer, aged 29, of Micklethwaite, near Bradford, West Yorkshire. All three deny conspiring between October 1, 1983, and November 25, 1987, to induce members of the public to enter investment schemes by making "misleading, false or deceptive" statements or promises. The three, and Christopher Newman, aged 37, a chartered accountant, of Polstead, Suffolk, also variously deny a total of 11 theft charges involving nearly £17 million belonging to investors.

Mr Clowes agreed he had not wanted trade department inspectors, who were investigating his onshore operations, to discover there was a shortage of gilt-edged stock held by Barlow Clowes gilt managers.

The trial continues today.

The last two years of recession have created a tough climate for businesses, exacerbated further by the primaeval response of most financial institutions:

"THE HERD MENTALITY" Losses have resulted in the spread of fear throughout the banking world, resulting in the shutters coming down and facilities being reduced or withdrawn.

"THE OSTRICH APPROACH" Head in the sand for all new business proposals - no responses, a lack of understanding as to your problems.

We offer a refreshing and creative outlook to financing of businesses through the provision of:

BONDS, GUARANTEES & INDEMNITIES The surety or third party bank bonds we provide prevent working capital being eroded unnecessarily and are outside and additional to your existing facilities.
- Indemnities. Can be used in buyouts, acquisitions and disposals.
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CORPORATE FINANCE We offer working capital finance in three areas
- Confidential Invoice Discounting.
- Pre Shipment Finance. From the day you sign the contract when you need the money the most.
- Delivery Finance.

INSOLVENCY INSURANCE Getting paid is all important. We organise credit protection using insurance and banking techniques to give guaranteed payment.

PROPERTY BASED SALE AND LEASEBACK The scheme frees up to 100% of current valuation. It provides a repurchase agreement which allows you to keep the upturn potential of your property. Lease periods up to 5 years are available.

BSA

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Bond Support Advisers Ltd, Saxon House, 48 Southwark Street, London SE1 1UN. Fax. 071-357 7829

The man from Del Monte he say "Oi."

Pardon the abruptness.

But if you've been reading reports about Del Monte recently, we need to clear something up. There is more than one company called Del Monte. One is PPI Del Monte Fresh Produce BV, currently owned by Polly Peck International. And then there is us, Del Monte Foods International Limited, (as in the Man from Del Monte). We're the ones who bring you all those delicious fruit juices and canned fruits, amongst other things. And we're a totally separate company, owned by management, employees and a group of investors led by members of the Charterhouse group. We just thought you should know.

Del Monte

Del Monte Foods International Limited, Del Monte House, Staines, England.

New stores help Kwik Save to beat £100m for first time

BY MATTHEW BOND

KWIK SAVE, the leading discount supermarket group, has expressed serious reservations about joining the current rush of supermarket companies planning to open their stores on the Sundays before Christmas.

Simon Moffat, finance director, said: "Our policy is based on the fact that there are still going to be the same number of customers, but with seven days of costs rather than six. We are worried that Sunday opening could mean higher prices for the customer." He added that Kwik Save would like to see the legal position clarified but hinted that competition could force the group into Sunday opening. "If our customers want it, we would have to consider it."

Kwik Save's comments came as the group unveiled record profits which, it said, proved that the company's strategy of selling branded products at discounted prices was the right one. In the City, analysts said the recession had actually been a positive factor for the group.

Sales at Kwik Save's 745 stores rose 24.6 per cent to almost £1.9 billion in the 53 weeks to end-August, while pre-tax profits advanced 19.2 per cent to £101.7 million, marking the first occasion on which the company's profits had exceeded £100 million. Kwik Save's shares rose 27p to 570p in response to the better than expected results and to the 24 per cent increase in the final dividend to 10.4p, making a total of 14.7p (12.1p).

Graeme Seabrook, chief executive, said: "Kwik Save's commitment to being the UK leading discount grocery retailer has been clearly demonstrated over the last year, with our highest ever investment in expansion through a successful combination of organic growth and acquisitions."

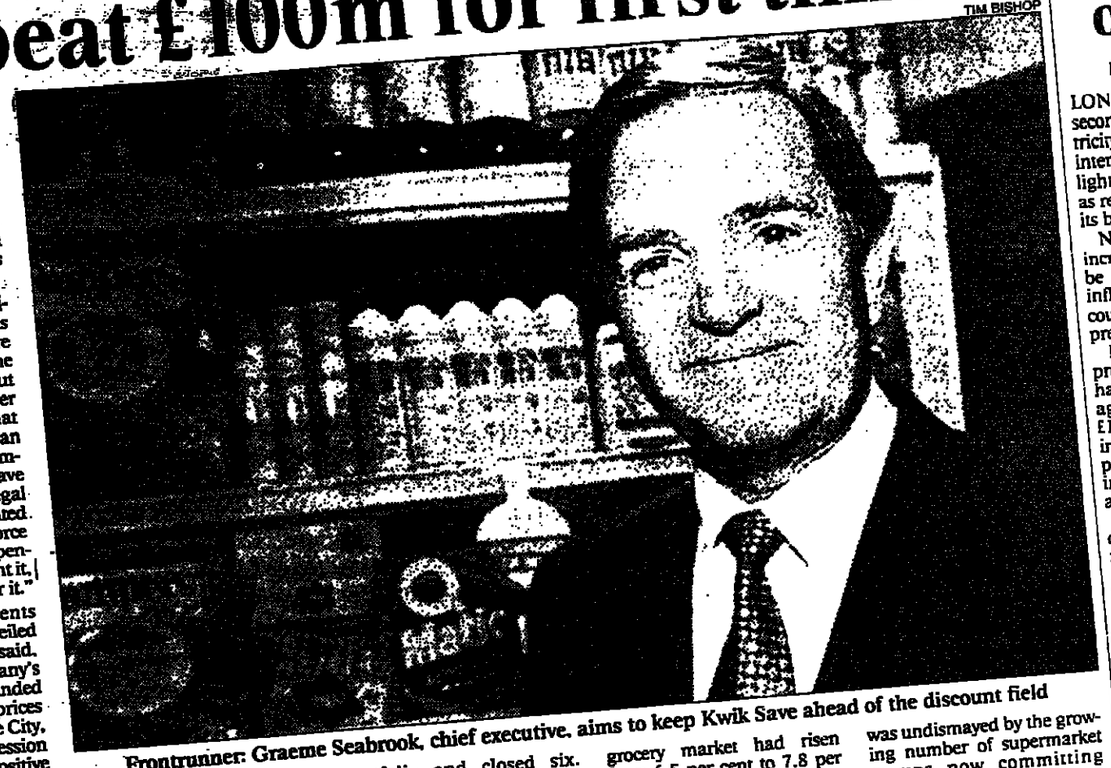
During the year the company added 90 stores to its portfolio and closed six. These additions, 42 of which were developed in-house while 48 were acquired from other retailers, accounted for 7.7 per cent of the sales growth. But sales on a like for like basis grew 7.1 per cent, a figure that Mr Moffat said the company was very pleased with. Operating margins were virtually unchanged at 5.52 per cent, while the group's share of the packaged grocery market had risen from 6.5 per cent to 7.8 per cent.

In the current year, he said, growth would continue, helped by a plan to open a further 50 new stores, taking the group's total retail space to around 5 million sq ft. Despite the rapid pace of expansion the company finished the year with a positive cash balance of £2.2 million.

Mr Moffat said Kwik Save was undismayed by the growing number of supermarket groups now committing themselves to discount chains. "We have met the competition head on in terms of price and we will continue to do so," he said.

He gave a warning, however, that further expansion of the discount sector would be at the expense of the more traditional supermarket groups.

TIM BISHOP



Frontrunner: Graeme Seabrook, chief executive, aims to keep Kwik Save ahead of the discount field

London Elec puts spotlight on debt

BY MARTIN WALLER

LONDON Electricity, the second of the regional electricity companies to report interim figures, has highlighted worsening bad debts as recession continues to hurt its business customers.

Next year's electricity price increase, however, is likely to be well below the rate of inflation and could be just a couple of percentage points if present trends continue.

London reported pre-tax profits of £14.5 million in the half year to September 30, against a nominal figure of £1.1 million last time. An interim dividend of 5p will be paid, and the company is indicating a total payment of about 16.7p.

Roger Urwin, managing director, said that because of recession London had been unable to reduce disconnections. Losses from business failures had doubled and the company expected total bad debt losses to rise from £6.9 million to almost £10 million this year.

In the first half, the volume of electricity sold rose by 4.3 per cent. The retail side continued to be seriously affected by the recession, losing £3 million against less than £1 million last time.

London is not involved in the joint retailing venture created by Southern and Eastern earlier this month, despite having taken part in preliminary talks.

Tempus, page 26

BUSINESS ROUND UP

Tate & Lyle increases payout on profit rise

TATE & LYLE, the sugar group, has announced an 8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £236.4 million on turnover of £3.26 billion (£3.45 billion) for the year to September 28. Earnings per share increased 11 per cent to 33.4p, and the final dividend is 7.5p, making 11.2p for the year, an increase of 12 per cent. The return on net operating assets edged up from 22.7 to 22.9 per cent, while gearing increased from 69 per cent to 75 per cent.

Neil Shaw, the chairman and chief executive, also announced the appointment of Stephen Brown, the group managing director, as chief executive officer from April. Mr Shaw, who will remain as chairman, said that the group's markets continued to benefit from "inherent steady growth" despite the recession and he looked forward to "continuing progress" for the company.

Tempus, page 26

Mid Kent buoyant

MID Kent Holdings, the water company based in the Southeast, lifted pre-tax profits 15 per cent to £4.21 million in the six months to September 30. Turnover grew 14.1 per cent to £14.6 million, reflecting increased income from its subsidiary, Mid Kent Water, after price rises, although this was offset by a drop in industrial metered consumption and in connections to new housing. Mid Kent is still suffering from a water shortage in spite of a wet June. Earnings per share rise from 15.8p to 19.1p. The interim dividend is maintained at 4.5p.

Christmas card theft

PLASTIC card fraud is expected to increase by up to 10 per cent over Christmas, according to Barclays, the biggest card issuer. The bank says such fraud is assuming serious proportions. It cost Barclaycard alone a total of £25.8 million last year. Total fraud losses in the plastic card industry, including both credit and debit cards, are thought to be at least £120 million a year. Every day, 2,000 Barclaycards and Barclays Connect cards are reported stolen. A tenth of those are later used fraudulently. Barclays issues 34.5 per cent of all debit and credit cards.

Steel aid go-ahead

THE European Commission waved through a Fr2.5 billion capital injection by Crédit Lyonnais, the state-owned French bank, into Usinor Sacilor, the state-owned French steel group. The decision was greeted with dismay by British Steel, which had complained to the commission that such a capital increase would amount to unfair competition. Under this complex deal, Crédit Lyonnais acquires a 9 per cent stake in Usinor for Fr2.5 billion. In a second phase, its total stake will rise to 20 per cent.

Steelmakers recycled, page 27

Soviet bank confident

MOSCOW Narodny Bank, the Soviet bank incorporated in London, confirmed yesterday that it could meet all its obligations after consulting the Bank of England. Worries about the bank's position had arisen since the failed Soviet coup in August, but eased when the Group of Seven nations agreed debt relief for the Soviet Union at the end of last week. The bank, which has 70 per cent of its loans in Soviet hands, said it had received confirmation of full support from the Soviet bank for foreign trade, Vnesheconombank and the Soviet state bank, Gosbank, which own 51 per cent.

Kuwait acts on banks

THE government of Kuwait plans to bail out five troubled commercial banks and investment firms with bad debts estimated at up to $24.5 billion. Bankers said a ministerial committee approved in principle a central bank plan for the debts to be covered by a bond issue. The plan is now being considered by experts.

Hanson's Beazer bid approved

Hanson has cleared the final hurdle in its bid for Beazer with the deal's approval by the American Federal Trade Commission, which has granted an early termination to the Hart-Scott-Rodino waiting period.

But Hanson has had to agree to divest itself of Beazer's 50 per cent stake in Cencal Cement. Earlier, Hanson said it had received valid acceptances of 214.8 million ordinary shares of Beazer, including shares represented by American depository shares, or 75.5 per cent of the total.

The minimum acceptance condition for the offer stands at 75 per cent and the deadline is 1400 GMT on December 4.

Caffyns slump

Caffyns, the Sussex-based motor dealer, suffered a slump in first-half profits as the company became the latest casualty of the severe recession gripping the motor trade.

Pre-tax profits dived from £607,000 to £297,000 in the half year to end-September despite an exceptional gain of £295,000 from property sales. Turnover declined from £70.2 million to £68.8 million. Earnings per share plunge from 14.8p to 5.5p, but the interim dividend is maintained at 5p. The shares lost 5p to 360p.

Moran rises

Moran Holdings, the tea producer, freight forwarder and property developer, lifted pre-tax profits by 71.9 per cent to £386,000 in the year to end-June, on turnover ahead 17.6 per cent to £38.7 million. The loss per share is slashed from 8.63p to 0.39p. The final dividend is maintained at 1p.

Pentland aim

Pentland Group is to further reduce its holding in Reebok International, the sports shoe manufacturer, according to documents filed by Pentland with the SEC in Washington. Pentland had previously reduced its share in Reebok to 13 per cent and has spent part of the money raised on building up a 25 per cent stake in Adidas, the German sportswear group.

Unitech cash

Unitech, the electronic components group, has completed a debt refinancing package through the issue of $29 million of seven-year US dollar notes. The notes, which bear a coupon of 9.12 per cent, have been issued to a number of American-based insurance companies. Proceeds will be used to repay bank debt.

Lonrho FT-SE

Lonrho has asked us to make it clear that, although its shares have been deleted in the past from the FT-SE 100, they are at present in the index, contrary to the impression given earlier this week.

Northern water firms ride out the recession

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

NORTH West Water, the second-biggest privatised water group, and Northumbrian, one of the smallest, have both reported higher profits and dividends for the six months to end-September, but have had quite different experiences of the recession.

North West, which draws a quarter of its utility revenue from measured supplies to business and new homes, shared with Thames and Anglian a 5 per cent decline in volume bought, reducing budgeted profits by nearly £4 million.

Pre-tax profits still rose by 7.7 per cent to £124 million, including a maiden contribution of £3.6 million from its water engineering acquisitions, most of which were included for only half the period.

Operating costs were held to a rise of only 4.4 per cent as the group continued its restructuring programme with a further charge of £12.4 million. Steve McAdam, finance director designate, said capital spending was on target and had risen by 60 per cent to £246 million.

At Northumbrian, in contrast, metered use of water by industry held up at its previous rate. This is vital for Northumbrian, which raises about 60 per cent of its water revenue from business customers, especially ICI and British Steel. Pre-tax profits rose 36 per cent to £31.3 million on turnover up 18 per cent to £98 million.

The supplier had been considered the water group most vulnerable to the economic cycle.

David Cranston, the chief executive, said the fall in income in the 1981 recession seemed to have been a one-off permanent adjustment.

Northumbrian pleased the market with a 9.7 per cent rise in its interim dividend to 6.8p per share but there was modest disappointment at the 9 per cent rise in North West's dividend to 6.54p per share. This was set in line with pre-privatisation projections but on the basis of inflation at 3.7 per cent although the November inflation figure, which determines next year's prices, is expected to be slightly higher.

North West has already agreed to forgo 0.5 per cent of next year's permitted price limit and Northumbrian has deferred 1 per cent. But both companies stressed that they would be asking for higher price limits later in the decade to pay for the increased costs of regulatory requirements, especially the EC municipal waste water directive.

Mr Cranston said the figure of 3 per cent real annual rise in prices above inflation originally scheduled for Northumbrian after 1995 was now "strictly for the birds".

Comment, page 27

Muted profit at Capital Radio

BY OUR CITY STAFF

CAPITAL Radio, where the chairman, Sir Richard Attenborough, is retiring next year, has reported its first profit downturn since 1985. Pre-tax profits fell by £6 million to £9.8 million in the year to September 30 as net advertising revenue tumbled by 13.5 per cent.

A 3.5p final dividend, however, maintains the total at 5.25p. Patrick Taylor, the finance director, said he believed that Capital's advertising performance was slightly better than that of the industry as a whole.

The company's new chairman will be Ian Irvine, deputy chief executive of Reed International, the publishing group, and a director of TV-am for seven years. He rejoined the Capital board in September, having served as a director from 1982 to 1990.

Sir Richard said the new financial year had started with "a modest year-on-year increase in revenues which is expected to be maintained for the first quarter". It was too early, however, to judge whether that improvement had set a trend that would last for the rest of the year.

Capital has taken a £1.6 million after-tax loss below the line as a result of the recent failure of Century Radio in Ireland.

The group has stakes in several other regional radio stations, but the industry's difficulties meant the share of profits from associated undertakings fell from £610,000 to just £21,000.

Mr Taylor said the company was considering competing for the new national radio franchise. Bids for this should be submitted to the Radio Authority by February 4. Capital has not yet taken a firm decision, however.

The shares fell 5p to 184p.



Attenborough: retiring

Dairy group pursues buyers for its non-core businesses

Unigate edges up to £43m

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

UNIGATE, the dairy, fresh foods and restaurant group, is still looking for buyers for its non-core poultry and car contract hire businesses, put up for sale by Ross Buckland, the new chief executive.

Mr Buckland, appointed in October last year, said that "various opportunities" for the disposals were being pursued, but added that the group was under "no pressure to take premature decisions". Last year, Unigate made a £76 million provision relating to the planned divestments and the group has come under pressure from the City to complete its restructuring. Some smaller subsidiaires have already been sold, raising about £10 million.

Interim pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September were up from £41.4 million to £43.3 million but were virtually unchanged after taking into account losses made in the first half year by companies to be divested, currency movements, and lower property profits. The interim dividend was maintained at 5.7p, paid out of earnings of 12.7p (12.1p).

Sir Brian Kellett, the chairman, said he expected the company to maintain its performance in the second half and that it was "well placed to benefit from the economic upturn when it comes".

Unigate Dairies increased its operating profit from £11.3 million to £13.3 million despite a 1 per cent decline in overall milk volumes over the period. The fresh foods division also saw a small increase in profits largely due to strong performances from low fat spreads and chilled desserts.

Operating profits from the American restaurant operations were static at £7.4 million but showed an underlying 9 per cent growth in dollar terms.

Cash outflow during the six months was £77.3 million, reflecting the normal seasonal increase in working capital and an £18 million purchase of shares in Nutricia, the Dutch food group, taking its holding to 34 per cent. Net debt rose from £116.7 million to £129 million, giving gearing of 29 per cent against 23 per cent a year ago. The shares fell 1p to 295p.

Exor trade suspended

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

SHARES in Exor, the parent company of Source Perrier, were suspended yesterday amid expectations of a fully fledged takeover bid from Italy's Agnelli family, which controls Fiat.

Through their Luxembourg family holding company, Ifint, the Agnellis hold shares and options worth 21 per cent of Exor, which in turn owns about 35 per cent of the French drinks and mineral water group.

Exor shares were suspended at Fr1,070, and there has been speculation at the Paris bourse that Ifint would have to pay as much as Fr1,350 a share, valuing Exor at Frb billion, to gain control from the other shareholders, which include Cie Financière de Suez and the family holding of Corinne Menzelopoulos, the deputy chairman, representing 18.6 per cent of the company.

An Exor spokesman said that a board meeting would be held this week. For the Agnellis, the deal represents further growth in Europe's mineral water industry.

The takeover rumours lifted Perrier shares from Fr1,235 to Fr1,274.

Driving a new lease of life into Rolls

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK



Coveted: Rolls symbol

FOR a downpayment equivalent to the cost of a middle-range Japanese car, image-conscious American's can now purr along in a Rolls-Royce or even a Bentley. Potential customers for this elevation of social status were arriving thick and fast at Rolls' New Jersey headquarters yesterday after just one advertisement appeared in one newspaper. In what the industry sees as a desperate move to move cars, one of the world's premier motor makers has entered the leasing business.

Robert Wharen, the head of American sales and marketing, said: "We have had four times the number of inquiries on the first day than we would have from a similar advertisement offering no special offer." The incentive, in a full-page advertisement in *The Wall Street Journal*, was the headline "Affordable for a limited time only" over a 12-inch picture of the famous Rolls-Royce radiator and Spirit of Ecstasy emblem. For a tenth of the cost of buying outright — Rolls will pick up the punishing American luxury tax — businessmen down on their recessionary luck will be able to maintain appearances. . .and Rolls-Royce will be able to clear their showrooms of last year's models.

In the next four weeks, the elite car maker, whose sales are down 50 per cent this year, hopes to move between 100 and 150 cars. Typical of the costs involved are those for the group's most popular model, the Silver Spur, which is normally priced at $166,300. Rolls-Royce requires a $15,000 non-refundable deposit and then 36 monthly payments of $2,299. At the end of that time, they will sell the lessee the car for an additional $75,000, bringing the total outlay to $172,764. Rolls-Royce would have already paid the $13,000 that the American government demand as a luxury tax. Between ten and 15 dealers have been operating leasing schemes for some time, but now all 53 will join the offer, the first to be financed by the company.

Industry executives estimate that about 25 per cent of luxury cars are sold in the run-up to Christmas in America, as entrepreneurs reach the end of their financial year and, if it has been good, reward themselves with a new car.

For Rolls-Royce, the year has been bad, with fewer than 600 new cars sold, helping to push Vickers, the parent company, into a £4.3 million loss for the six months to June. Vickers maintained the half-time dividend, but gave a warning that the final payout hangs on sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars. Mr Wharen says sales have not improved since the end of June.

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STOCK MARKET

Sterling volatility continues to depress shares

ANOTHER volatile day for the pound on the foreign exchanges left investors on the equity market anxious.

The pound made up some of its recent losses against the mark but faltered against the dollar. Misplaced fears about another coup in the Soviet Union found traders scurrying out of the mark and into the dollar as they tried to cover themselves before today's Thankgiving Day celebrations in America.

An early advance on the equity market waned, leaving prices drifting nervously throughout the rest of the session. Attempts at a rally were halted by another opening fall on Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index closed down 24 points at 2,447.5, just above its low for the day. Turnover grew to 548 million shares, swollen by a mixed programme trade by Smith New Court.

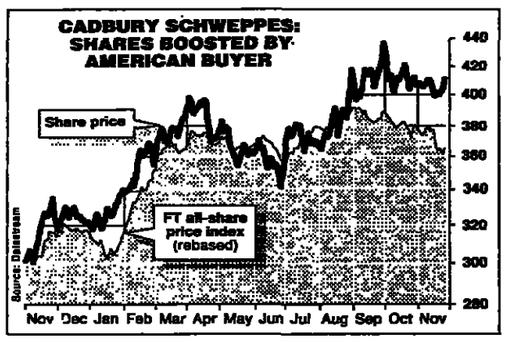
Government securities closed with gains of £¼ at the longer end.

Among leaders, **Rank Organisation** *fell 12p to 652p as* a line of 1.5 million shares went through the market. **SmithKline Beecham** fell 15p to 776p on reports it had stopped development of a new anti-ulcer drug.

The decision by the big supermarket chains to open on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas continued to attract attention. **Argyll**, up 2½p at 283p, started the ball rolling on Tuesday after announcing a bumper set of half-year figures. It was quickly followed by **Tesco**, 1p easier at 224p, and **Asda**, steady at 39p. **J Sainsbury**, 1p firmer at 336p, has also fallen into line.

Kwik Save Discount, the discount food retailer, surged 26p to 569p after reporting full-year figures at the top end of City expectations. Pre-tax profits rose from £85.2 million to £101.6 million.

Revived bid hopes saw **Cadbury Schweppes** touch 412p before ending the session 2p better at 407p. Whispers in the market claimed a large American buyer was stalking the shares. The 17 per cent stake bought a few years ago by General Cinema of America remains fresh in the minds of most speculators. General Cinema later disposed of its stake but Cadbury continues to attract speculative support.



Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, advanced 7p to 364p *in response to pre-tax profits*

Expect a smart rise from Borthwicks, the former meat trader — unchanged at 34½p — on receipt of better than expected halfway figures today. Pre-tax profits should exceed £800,000, against a full-year £255,000 last time, and the progress is set to continue.

of £234 million (£218 million). Also in the food sector, **Unigate**, the dairy products and transport group, ended 1p softer at 295p after half-year figures showing pre-tax profits only £1.9 million ahead at £43.3 million.

Cabra Estates, the property developer, fell 1p to 13p. The Stamford Bridge ground has been valued at £22.8 million. Cabra says Chelsea Football Club is legally bound to complete the purchase.

Ratners, the jeweller, fell 4p to 50p after Goldman Sachs, the broker, cut its profit estimate for the current year by £10 million to £35 million. Last month, it had been forecasting a final outcome of £60 million. Paul Deacon, at Goldman, does not expect Ratners to pay a final dividend and is cautious about prospects for the shares. **BICC** was also the subject of a profits downgrading by UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker. The *shares fell 5p to 322p.*

The prospect of increased provisions for bad and doubtful debts and higher restructuring costs has moved Carr Kitcat & Aitken, the stockbroker, to reduce its profit estimates for **National Westminster Bank** in the current year. It has reduced its forecast by £250 million to only £50 million. The move did not do much for the other high street banks, with **Barclays** down 10p to 375p, **Lloyds** 10p lower at 375p, and **Midland** 6p off at 224p.

Smith New Court, the broker, is also reckoned to have reduced its profit expectations for **Ladbroke**, 8p lower at 248p, and **Vickers**, 7p off at 150p.

Ultramar rose 2p to 332p on news of an oil find in the North Sea. The rise makes the terms from Lasmo, down 3p at 292p, even less attractive.

MICHAEL CLARK

Opec extends high oil ceiling

FROM REUTER IN VIENNA

THE oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries signed an output agreement yesterday that lets its members keep pumping crude at will for the rest of the northern hemisphere's winter, according to Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the Iranian oil minister. The decision extends the group's existing production ceiling into the first quarter of 1992, when ministers expect strong demand for their oil.

Opec also reaffirmed its desire to see prices for its crude climb back to $21 a barrel, according to Celestino Armas, the Venezuelan oil minister. That price has not been reached since early in the Gulf war last January. The average price for Opec's basket of seven crudes slipped to $19.74 a barrel last week from $19.98 the week before.

Opec agreed last September to limit total output to 23.65 million barrels per day, a ceiling with little practical effect because it roughly equals the group's collective pumping capacity with Iraq and Kuwait sidelined by the Gulf crisis. The group produced 23.7 million bpd in October. Only Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has room to boost output from the 8.5 million bpd it pumps now.

Saudi officials, brandishing forecasts of strong demand early next year, urged fellow members to keep output high for the rest of the winter to help balance rising demand. With Iraqi exports still blocked by economic sanctions, Kuwait rebuilding its shattered energy network and turmoil in the Soviet Union disrupting supplies from the world's biggest producer, the Saudis said that Opec cannot be a stingy custodian of three-quarters of the world's proven oil reserves.

But a generous pumping programme is sure to hit snags when the northern winter ends, undermining demand just as Kuwait and perhaps Iraq pour more oil into the market. The ministers discussed ways to choke off some production.

TEMPUS

Foreign growth holds sweet prospects for Tate & Lyle



Eighty per cent overseas and looking for more: Neil Shaw of Tate & Lyle

AFTER oil and corn, sugar must rank as one of the most political of all bulk commodities, but surely even Neil Shaw, the dynamic chairman and chief executive of Tate & Lyle, would be hard pressed to bring about the downfall of Fidel Castro. However, Mr Shaw was yesterday confidently predicting political change within 12 to 18 months in Cuba, which he identified as an area for expansion. The ambition is a typically farsighted one for a company that now has 80 per cent of its operations overseas, including Hungary and eastern Germany.

Of greatest interest to the market is the performance of Bundaberg Sugar, the Australian sugar miller that Tate acquired in June for £145.5 million. A contribution of Aus$7.2 million (£3.2 million) during the three months to September 28 will not set the world alight, and the drought in Queensland will depress figures during the current year. However, the market appears to accept the argument that the purchase will give Tate access to the fast-growing sugar markets of Southeast Asia.

Elsewhere in the world, Tate's policy of diversification served it well. For example, profit falls in the two American companies were largely offset by increases in Canada.

At the group level, pre-tax profits were up by 8 per cent to £236.4 million with group operating margins showing a further advance to 8.7 per cent. The balance sheet remains reasonably strong despite the £134 million of capital expenditure and £186 million spent on acquisitions last year. Gearing increased from 69 per cent to 75 per cent but interest cover improved from 4.6 to 5.7 times.

After a period of underperformance, the shares look poised for a good run as the UK food price war hits the more domestically orientated manufacturers. Tate should also start to realise the benefit of its investment in the new products Splenda and Stellar.

Pre-tax profits in the current year should reach £255 million, giving 35p earnings. This puts the shares on a forward multiple of about 10.5 times prospective earnings, making them look distinctly good value.

London Electricity

THE main interest in this year's interim reporting season from the 12 regional electricity distributors is the degree to which each is prepared to risk upsetting the regulator with dividend increases. The evidence so far, although slender, indicates a measure of timidity.

To Norweb's notional 13 per cent increase — that is, a rise of 13 per cent over what the company would have paid had it been privatised last time — can be added a 12 per cent rise, and a similar forecast for the full year, from London Electricity.

First-half figures from the companies, as with any energy utility, are of little consequence to the full-year figures, covering as they do the summer months. London saw pre-tax profits rise from a notional £1.1 million to £14.5 million despite a crafty £5 million above-the-line provision covering anything from the Barber pension case to insurance claims for holes dug in the capital's roads.

The recession has impacted both on the rate of bad debts from business failures, doubled since last time, and on prospects for growth in the important commercial sector. Retailing remains a disaster, with restructuring pushing it into a £3 million loss in the first half. London expects a respectable 2 per cent growth in the core electricity distribution business over the current year, however.

Other companies, most likely South Wales and Northern, may break ranks and raise dividends by more than the sector as a whole, but for now London is holding the line. The shares now yield just over 7 per cent, only a touch ahead of the sector average, and have no real reason to outperform.

Hambros

MISREADING the market can be expensive. Hambro Countrywide discovered this to its cost at the start of the year, when it geared up for a recovery in the property market. To cope with the anticipated rush, the estate agency chain recruited teams of negotiators and life assurance salesmen, who then sat idly by while the Gulf War prevented the market from improving.

The result of this error is displayed in Hambros' results for the half year to end-September. Pre-tax profits fell 12 per cent to £37.6 million due a £4.1 million loss at Countrywide, compared with a £1 million profit last time. The dividend, however, is being lifted by 0.2p to 4.2p.

The mishap conceals Hambros' many strengths. The banking operation continues to defy expectations. Profits here rose 23 per cent to £40.5 million, due to bad debt provisions of only £4.7 million on a £2 billion loan book, a strong capital markets operation and the upsurge in rights issue activity. It still carries enough weight in the City to complete large corporate finance deals.

Hambros' potential lies in its estate agency chain. When the housing market finally recovers, the bank's 480 agencies are capable of selling 50,000 houses a year and making a profit of £25 million. Until then the banking business provides core profitability. The shares at 270p stand on a p/e ratio of only 10 on estimated profits of £85 million for the year. A yield of 6.8 per cent on a forecast dividend of 13.8p makes them very attractive in the medium term.

"The global markets served by Tate & Lyle continue to benefit from inherent steady growth, unlike many other markets in times of recession. As a result we have enjoyed another successful year – the thirteenth year in a row in which we have reported increased profits."

Neil Shaw

Chairman & Chief Executive

TATE+LYLE

PRELIMINARY RESULTS	1991	1990	% Change
Turnover	**£3,262m**	£3,445m	**–5**
Profit Before Tax	**£234.6m**	£218.0m	**+8**
Earnings Per Share – basic	**39.6p**	36.0p	**+10**
Earnings Per Share – fully diluted	**33.4p**	30.2p	**+11**
Dividends	**11.2p**	10.0p	**+12**
Return on Net Operating Assets	**22.9%**	22.7%	

Preliminary announcement of results for the 52 weeks ended 28th September 1991.

Copies of the Annual Report for the period ended 28th September 1991 will be posted to shareholders shortly and will be available from:

N J Nightingale, Secretary, Tate & Lyle PLC, Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6DQ.



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COMMENT

Making Sid into Aunt Sally

The government's sale of BT shares has focused attention on the bizarre and random changes the government has been making to its own ideas on privatised utilities. They were meant to be safe investments that would yield moderate growth to a new generation of investors venturing beyond building societies, trusts and National Savings. In the brave new world of mass share ownership, ordinary people would associate themselves with the need for healthy profits for investment and economic growth.

Having been privatised, however, the utilities have become political aunt sallies, damned for their profits and used as a testbed for theories earlier rejected as dangerous and counter-productive. Thus far, it is not clear how far this is a pre-election manoeuvre by the government to deflect opposition attacks and how far it is the revenge of Whitehall on its unloved former charges.

In BT's case, measures to screw down profits and force competition seem to be, at least in the short run, simply a gain for consumers at the expense of shareholders. In gas, electricity and water, wider issues of the quality and security of supply are at stake. The carefully judged attack on regulatory instability from Bob Thian, chief executive of North West Water, points to the conflict between short-term pressure on prices and long-term pressure to improve standards, the old fault of state industries. There is also an inexorable move to American-style control of rate of return, which the government rightly rejected as sapping incentive and innovation.

The utilities have themselves to blame. Several water companies, for instance, made excessive dividend rises for 1990-1, undermining the case for medium-term price regulation and for smoothing out good years and bad. Top pay, though not excessive by big company standards, was raised so fast that opprobrium was inevitable. That invited pressure on regulators such as Sir Bryan Carsberg of Oftel and Ian Byatt of Ofwat, who have records of good sense, to be hyperactive champions of the consumer, not least to protect the utility regulation system against a change of government. Whoever is to blame, the system is falling rapidly into disrepute.

Unveiling MCC

The Maxwell brothers, Kevin and Ian, have at last decided to produce a cleaned up set of accounts for Maxwell Communication Corporation, the more complex and troubled of the two quoted elements of their father's legacy. Not before time. The MCC accounts were badly in need of an overhaul.

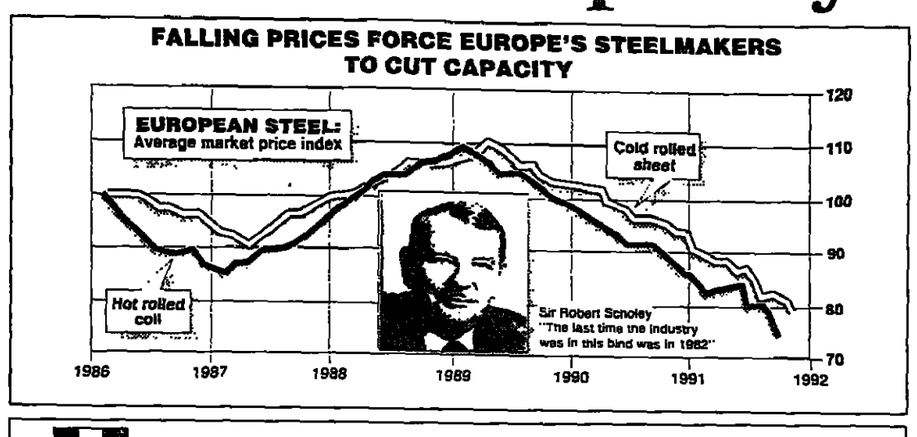
Stripping out what most analysts would regard as non-recurring items, dealing profits and non trading items as currency profits would in the last reported year have reduced the pre-tax profit line to a mere fraction of its published value.

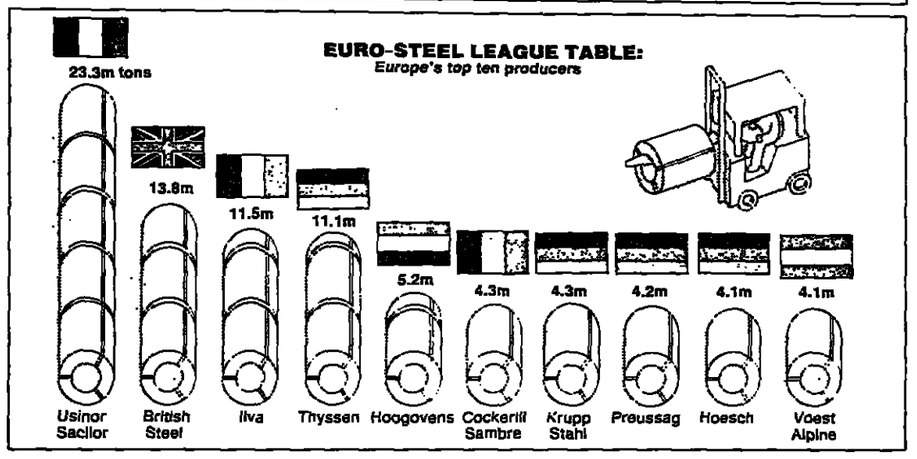
However, this is only half the task. Perhaps more difficult for the sons, in the sense that their father always refused, is a similar decision to take a hard line with the accounts of the family's private companies.

Shares in MCC and MGN were used as security for loans to the private companies. Without a clear exposition of the financial affairs of those family interests, it is uncertain whether or not those share will be called by the banks and later offered to an unwilling market. Having started the process of unveiling the business, the Maxwell brothers should continue the process to its logical conclusion.

Steelmakers recycled in a crucible of over-capacity

Wolfgang Munchau argues that subsidies, even if they are hidden, will not protect Europe's steel industry from the basic law of supply and demand





The problem with the steel industry is that the more it is subsidised, the greater its long-term difficulties become, since subsidies tend to delay capacity reduction and promote lower prices, and lower profits.

Yesterday's decision by the European Commission to allow Crédit Lyonnais, the French state-owned bank, to inject Fr2.5 billion into Usinor Sacilor, the French state-owned steelmaker, in return for a 9 per cent stake, will once again raise the old controversy over subsidies. Officially, Europe no longer subsidises its steel industry, except perhaps in some special cases. But there is less clarity about hidden subsidies, and some would say that is what this is.

Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, has condemned the investment in Usinor, his largest European competitor, as anti-competitive from the outset. A spokesman for British Steel said yesterday: "We find the commission's agreement difficult to understand and we will be considering it in conjunction with our financial advisers."

The question of whether an injection of state funds into state-owned companies is a subsidy or a genuine investment has always been difficult for the European Commission to decide.

In the case of the steel industry, however, yesterday's decision is even more controversial because of the consequences on competition, and because it comes against a background of deep difficulties for the whole of Europe's steel industry. Over the past two years, steel profits have declined substantially as prices have fallen by 30 per cent in some steel sectors. The biggest shock came this month from British Steel, which announced a collapse in interim pre-tax profits from £307 million to £19 million, and some experts believe this might turn into a full-year loss. The experts also agree that British Steel is now Europe's most efficient steelmaker.

The immediate cause of the fall in profits at British Steel, and elsewhere, is the steep fall in steel prices from 1989 levels, as the chart shows. The trend has continued this year and is expected to last into 1992. Last May, the price spread for hot-rolled wire coils was DM610/630 per tonne, but by October the price had come down to DM520/550. The same thing has occurred in every other steel segment.

Prices fall when supply outstrips demand. Demand has been relatively steady across the EC at 110 to 115 million tonnes a year. The fall in prices is a consequence of the rise in the amount of steel on offer, although not necessarily produced, the difference being exports and changes in stock levels. In this case, the fall in prices came through large scale destocking. The process of stock building and destocking is primarily responsible for the highly cyclical nature of the business.

British Steel and Usinor have decided to reverse the price trend from next year onwards. In British Steel's case this would amount to the reduction in certain discounts, equivalent to a price rise of some 4 per cent to 5 per cent. But it is already apparent that not everybody in the industry will participate.

Peter Fish, managing director of MEPS (Europe), a specialist research company, thinks these price rises will not stick. "The underlying problem is the oversupply in the market. Under those circumstances customers will not accept price rises," he said. The price war, he predicts, will last well into next year. British Steel, he estimates, is already making losses judging by the further decline in prices since October.

"My view is that the output needs pulling back pretty drastically now to put supply and demand in balance," he said. Even if destocking is the overt cause of the price fall, in the end it comes down to industry's inability to reduce supply when necessary. So the process of massive restructuring that started in the Eighties is likely to continue. Already, between 1980 and 1988, capacity in the EC has been reduced from 194.5 million tonnes to 165 million tonnes, and employment fell from 672,000 to 409,000.

Much of this transformation was achieved through public subsidy, largely geared towards capacity reduction. During that period this amounted to a staggering 40 billion ecus (£28.4 billion) across the EC. Since 1988, the subsidies have gone down. Last week in Brussels, European industry ministers adopted what is probably the tightest regime ever on subsidies in the industry, and limited state subsidies to strictly confined areas, like environmental projects or special research and development. There are still some exemptions for Greece, Portugal and eastern Germany, but their combined output is very small. The biggest question is whether yesterday's decision might set a precedent for back-door subsidies.

Sir Robert warns that subsidies will eventually backfire. Earlier this month, he said: "The last time the industry was in this bind was in 1982. The cost of propping up the European steel industry ran to £3 billion a year. There is a limit to how long states and institutions can bear that."

Irrespective of the subsidy issue, the financing of state and private companies is never strictly comparable. In the end, the state-owned group will able to hold out longer and tolerate lower profits, perhaps even losses, than their private competitors. Under pressure, private companies have therefore a marginally greater interest in reducing capacity than their state-owned competitors. This is the case even if everybody plays fair, not necessarily a safe assumption in an industry often accused of price-rigging.

In the end, capacity needs to be cut on all fronts, and the concentration process will continue. Nowhere is this a more urgent need than in Germany. Despite recent mergers and the fact that Germany produces more steel than any other European country, none of the top three European steel companies is German.

Further pressure will come from developing nations, such as South Korea and Brazil, which have built formidable steel industries. Eastern Europe, with its cheaper labour, could take a slice of the action, too.

This scenario is compatable with the infamous theory that industries have a certain life span beyond which they cannot be rescued, through subsidises or restructuring. New technologies, changes in labour cost and the liberalisation of world trade drive some of these industries abroad. Since demand for steel is fairly constant and steel mills are becoming ever more efficient, capacity and jobs will need to be cut constantly. The best long-term outcome may be survival as a minor industry. In the end, the industry might be so small that its efficiency is hardly noticeable.

Job rights hit wrong note for Howard

In the run-up to the Maastricht summit, the government's difficulties over Europe seem to be mounting daily. Though political, economic and monetary union will be ministers' headline problems, the thorny question of social Europe — largely employment rights — could still be among the most intractable.

For probably the first time, the government let slip just how difficult when Michael Howard, the employment secretary, told the Commons that, try as it might, the UK government might not be able to prevent some employment changes put forward by Brussels to which Britain has strenuously objected.

Writing in these pages yesterday, Norman Willis, TUC general secretary and president of the European TUC, suggested that Maastricht might fail for John Major not because of federalism in Europe or EMU, but because of workers' rights. His statement came after the signing by the ETUC and Unice, the European employers' body, of an agreement proposing changes to the Treaty of Rome that for the first time will give both employers and unions a formal role in determining and implementing EC employment policy. The changes are incorporated in the draft treaty for Maastricht, and look likely to come into effect.

The CBI yesterday again angrily attacked the social action programme — the implementation of EC president Jacques Delors's social charter. But neither the CBI's nor the government's attacks seem much in line with current public feeling, according to opinion poll evidence yesterday.

Though the poll was commissioned by the TUC, which has a vested interest, the questions put by NOP to 977 people last weekend were clear enough. Did they support the inclusion in the Maastricht treaty of a common framework of employment rights throughout Europe? Seventy-one per cent said they did, with 16 per cent against.

Worryingly for the government, three-fifths of those intending to vote Conservative at the forthcoming general election were also in favour, as were 83 per cent of Labour supporters. Asked whether they supported qualified majority voting — under which EC member states decide on an issue on the basis of weighted votes, which will be the subject of severe contention at Maastricht — 48 per cent were in favour and 34 per cent against.

Especially with that kind of public support, the unions are cock-a-hoop with what they see as a big coup in the Unice agreement. The CBI publicly looks as though it is wriggling on a hook partly of its own making. But Maastricht looks set to confirm the Unice-ETUC deal; and if it does, as Mr Howard acknowledged this week about the action plan, there may not be much the government — at best uneasy about the agreement — will be able to do about it.

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

In pursuit of the edible

TODAY is Thanksgiving and Bob Payton, the irrepressible New Yorker who runs the My Kinda Town restaurant chain, plans to celebrate in his usual style. Payton, who is still trying to find a buyer for Stapleford Park, his country house hotel in Leicestershire, is due in Leicester Square, London, this morning to open a branch of Chicago Rib Shack, one of several theme restaurants he owns. He is then due back in Leicestershire for a spot of hunting before a traditional Thanksgiving feast for 95 guests. "Any excuse for a party," says Payton, who lavished £4.6 million on Stapleford Park before putting it on the market for £6.5 million in September, and has plans for a £3 million golf course on the estate. Another restaurant is due to open in Cologne today, but Payton will not be in attendance. "I made it from Dublin to Paris for two openings on the same day last year, but Cologne is a bit off the beaten track," he adds.

Day trippers

SOME companies are so desperate to have analysts attend their briefings that they have begun laying on coaches to catch City scribblers as they leave one meeting in time to bus them over for the next. Boots and Burton struck a deal last week in which a coach was on hand to ferry guests between venues. And the red carpet was rolled out for analysts leaving yesterday's Unigate meeting at the Brewery on Chiswell Street, who found a coach waiting to whisk them to Tate & Lyle's briefing at Sugar Quay on the other side of the City. Unfortunately for Tate & Lyle, the



"No, mother, nothing to do with Rover Group sweeteners."

Unigate meeting finished earlier than expected, but about 12 analysts took up the offer.

Keeping it loud

PANDEMONIUM broke out on County NatWest's international dealing floor yesterday afternoon when Harvey Wolff, a property consultant, proposed to Jenny Clark, a secretary on the food and stores desk, using the office intercom. "The champagne has been flowing," slurred an analyst who telephoned with the good news.

Rating on thin ice

WITH the British Telecom share issue reaching fever-pitch, the government and SG Warburg, its adviser, have found a novel way of letting off steam — on ice. A team from Warburg's corporate finance department met Treasury officials at Broadgate ice-rink on Tuesday for an evening of skating, and they have challenged each other to a game of broomball on December 9, the day in which dealings in the new BT shares are due to begin. However, those who witnessed the display say the Treasury turned in an embarrassing performance, and one of their number steadfastly refused to take to the ice after donning his skates. They have two weeks to get their act together.

Thai-coon tips

THOSE in the City who find research circulars dull should subscribe to David Scott, who covers the Thai market for Robert Fleming. Tired of seeing visitors to Bangkok being fleeced by local traders, he has devoted his latest circular to the art of bargaining. How not to look like an obvious buyer, for instance. Never pick up anything and hold it in your hand, never allow your spouse to say "Oh that's nice", and never say how much you are prepared to pay. Work in a group. Get your friends to arrive on the scene and pretend to drag you away. The seller will see his chances dissolving and panic. Now, as for dealing in Thai shares . . .

On your bike

BORING they may be, but accountants know their priorities. Newly qualifieds expect a company car and annual bonus as a matter of course at a new job, it seems. Three quarters of respondents in a survey by Harrison Willis, the recruitment consultant, considered company cars an essential part of a package, and branded employers who do not provide them as "skin-flints". There was little enthusiasm for schemes run by Body Shop and others that allow staff to choose between a company car and company bicycle. Unfazed by it all is John Vonk, a director of Harrison Willis, who cycles daily to Mayfair from his Clapham home clad in garish tones of yellow and pink.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Sceptics forget that Europe already has a central bank

From Mr Mario Kelly

Sir, I would like to speculate that the forex intervention by the Bundesbank was on behalf of the Bank of England. I am employed as a forex dealer, so if I may expand: by placing an order with "Buba" the "BoE" realised that any purchase of sterling would carry more clout, which it did.

This, though, results in one huge yet missed admission by the Treasury and any Eurosceptics: we already have one central bank of Europe; we already have one currency; we already have one controller of monetary policy.

I would conclude that Maastricht will now be a formality, with or without the UK, and we will see one true currency and nation sooner than a lot of diehards here think.

The market has decided that a United Europe is destiny.

Yours faithfully,
MARIO KELLY,
82 Matcham Road,
Leytonstone,
E11.

Loss levy at Lloyd's

From Mr H. H. Marcus

Sir, Many "Names of Lloyd's" will share my delight to read in your today's column that "Lloyd's chief calls for fund to meet Names' excess losses", quoting the chairman, Mr David Coleridge, speaking on the *Money Programme* on November 24.

We have long campaigned for a change in policy whereby a point should be reached when Lloyd's will be able to tell us "enough is enough".

For many of us, membership of Lloyd's has become an unmitigated disaster and a dreadword.

We hope that this policy if adopted will not just serve as a device to attract new Names but will help present Names who now face tremendous losses.

Much litigation is now in progress and it might be an idea for the council of Lloyd's to impose on the Syndicates who through their negligence or worse have caused untold suffering, a compulsory levy to contribute to the finance of such Reserve Fund.

Yours faithfully,
H.H. MARCUS,
4 Regency Terrace,
Off Selwood Terrace,
London,
SW7.

Setting an example

From Mr Ian Bryant

Sir, Directors enjoyed a 142 per cent salary increase over the past ten years (your report on Directors' Rewards Survey, November 25).

During this period, top rates of income tax fell substantially, so the increase in take-home pay will have been over 200 per cent — about three times the increase in retail prices for the same period — thus proving that inflation starts at the top.

"Don't do as I do, but do as I say . . ."

Yours faithfully,
IAN BRYANT,
Hipping Hall,
Cowan Bridge,
Kirkby Lonsdale,
Cumbria.

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Oil wealth fails to keep Norway's motor turning

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE optimism that prevailed over Norway's economy earlier this year has given way to gloom, even though the country's oil and gas wealth offshore will probably cushion it against onshore deterioration for centuries.

This autumn, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister, has watched deepening troubles in the banking sector inflict considerable damage on domestic and international confidence. To add to her government's concerns, the Norwegian central bank yesterday sharply downgraded its forecast for economic growth in a gloomy quarterly report.

The worsening outlook suggests that Norway, even as the biggest oil producer in Europe (it overtook Britain earlier this year) has caught the nasty cold onshore that has sent Finland and Sweden into recession. The troubles in banking reflect hard times in commerce and industry, as well as an accompanying wave of bad debt.

After the clean bill of health the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development gave Norway in its spring report, the country looked well placed to pursue its goal of closer economic integration in Europe.

While the central bank has handsomely increased its forecast for the 1992 current account surplus, from 25 billion crowns (£2.23 billion) to 41 billion, that would represent a slight dip from the Kr44 billion now expected for this year.

Norway will remain the OECD member with the biggest surplus as a share of gross domestic product. Although oil and gas revenues will boost the current account surplus, the depressed state of the onshore economy is shown in the lower mainland growth forecast, which excludes oil and shipping. This is now forecast to grow by 2 per cent next year instead of the 3 per cent that was still expected last June. Only last month, the minority Labour government forecast growth of 2.6 per cent.

William Ledward, Europe economist at Nomura Research, said: "Oil is the only bright thing about Norway." The central bank expects the mainland economy to show only 0.25 per cent growth this year, against earlier estimates of 1.5 per cent.

Next year's growth is expected to have little impact on unemployment, currently at 4.5 per cent of the workforce, a high level for Norway. Overall growth, including offshore activity, is expected to be 2.5 per cent in 1992.

The central bank attributed slower than expected growth this year primarily to financial retrenchment, driven by the worst economic situation since the war and by fears of unemployment. Exports of non-oil goods have fallen as demand in key markets has dropped. Strong investment in oil and gas and high government spending have, however, maintained output and jobs. But onshore investment is expected to shrink by 6.5 per cent this year before starting to grow again at 3.25 per cent in 1992.

Having brought down annual inflation to 2.5 per cent, the central bank now expects it to go back up to 3.5 per cent in 1992, slightly below the previous forecast.



Hand-wringing time: Gro Harlem Brundtland, prime minister, has plenty to worry about

Bad debts drain off brewer's profits

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE recession in the pub trade has been reflected in disappointing interim figures from Marston, Thompson & Evershed, the Burton upon Trent brewer, with a fall in pre-tax profits of 28 per cent to £6.99 million in the half year to September 28.

Michael Hurdle, the chairman, said the figures result from "the most difficult trading circumstances for over 20 years," and the group is raising the dividend from 1.26p to 1.34p. A £2.73 million exceptional debit is blamed for cutting profits to well below market estimates, the figure including a £2.3 million loss from increasing bad debts on the part of the brewer's free trade customers. The balance covered redundancy costs.

The problem of bad debts was revealed last week by Whitbread, the first of the big brewers to report in the current interim results season. Mr Marston said the free trade customers are experiencing trading difficulties in the current economic climate while many of their debts are secured on properties that are falling in value.

Mr Hurdle said a similar loss is expected for the second half, providing there are no further falls in trading or property values.

Beer volumes for Marston were down just short of 7 per cent, slightly ahead of the beer market as a whole. Sales of its Pedigree brand to Whitbread had continued to be disappointing and overall sales were down, but the second brand, Burton Best Bitter, saw a marginal rise in volumes.

PolyGram film link with Palace

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

POLYGRAM, Europe's largest record and entertainment company, has expanded its interests into the British film industry with a £7 million deal with the Palace Group of Companies, a major British film producer and distributor.

The deal follows a series of other acquisitions this year.

The new package includes the full acquisition of Palace Video. UK distributors of films such as *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Nightmare on Elm Street*, *9½ Weeks* and *Wild at Heart*.

Also in the deal are Palace Productions' interests in the existing catalogue of productions and co-productions including releases such as *Mona Lisa*, *The Company of Wolves*, and *The Pope Must Die*.

PolyGram has also entered into a five-year deal providing a film development fund for Palace Productions. The arrangement gives PolyGram the first option to acquire all rights to future Palace productions. At the end of the term, PolyGram have also been given an option to buy a stake in the ownership of the company at that stage.

Michael Kuhn, president of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, said this would make PolyGram "a major force in the creative production talent for movies in the UK". Palace's strategy will continue to be to "make both quality films principally for the UK market and bigger budget films with a European appeal but capable of US success".

Palace said the deal would allow the company to take advantage of "the creative and financial opportunities in the 1990s".

A recently announced $200 million investment plan by Palace will go ahead as planned.

Margin cut hurts ABI

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

LOWER sales and substantial discounting took a heavy toll on full year profits at ABI Leisure Group, Britain's leading caravan manufacturer, but the group was optimistic about an improvement in profits next year.

Fierce pressure on margins was partly responsible for a 65 per cent slump in pre-tax profits to £2.07 million (£5.92 million) in the year to end-August, while sales fell by 18.3 per cent to £52.3 million. The fall in profits was exacerbated by a £231,000 exceptional charge relating to redundancy costs, while interest costs rose to £1.26 million (£711,000).

David Eastwood, managing director, said: "The hit has come in the United Kingdom, but the signs are that it's not dropping any further. I think we're over the worst." Poor conditions in Britain were offset by growing exports, which now account for 25 per cent of turnover, from 21 per cent previously.

Earnings per share plunge from 15p to 5.7p, but the final dividend is maintained at 3.13p, making 4.7p for the year. The shares lost 7p to 65p.

Japanese lead HK investing

JAPAN has overtaken America as the leading overseas investor in Hong Kong manufacturing. Government statistics show that it accounted for more than 32 per cent of new foreign funds invested in the colony's industry last year, followed by America with 31 per cent, China with 11 per cent and Britain with 7 per cent.

The total amount of new foreign investment, at HK$1.2 billion (£86 million), was 67 per cent down on 1989's HK$3.6 billion. Overseas investors remain concerned about political uncertainties ahead of Hong Kong's sovereignty changeover in 1997.

Dunedin up

The net asset value of Dunedin Worldwide Investment Trust rose 26.9 per cent to 595.3p (469.1p) per share over the year to October 30. Pre-tax revenue declined from £5.55 million to £4.77 million, but total revenue climbed from £8.17 million to £8.38 million. The final dividend is raised to 7.1p (6.6p), making a total of 9.5p (9p) for the year.

Dividend lifted

Apollo Metals, the USM-quoted processor and distributor of aluminium plate and bar, is raising its final dividend to 2.3p (2p), making a total of 3.45p (3p) for the year to September 30, despite a decline in pre-tax profits from £2.4 million to £2.03 million.

Evans grows

Evans Halshaw, a multi-franchise motor trader, has acquired a second Toyota franchise with the purchase of Viking Brighton for £1.1 million. The franchise covers Brighton, Hove, Lewes and surrounding areas.

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TIP Europe 5p N/P (90)	13	...

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RISES:

Micro Focus	1498p (+10p)
Hambros	270p (+12p)
NYNEX	4225p (+58p)
Kwik Save	588p (+25p)

FALLS:

Commercial Union	452p (–10p)
Lloyds Abbey	376p (–12p)
Royal	274p (–13p)
Smithkline Units	3408p (–80p)
Rank Org	652p (–12p)
ADT	313p (–10p)
Sotheby	625p (–13p)
TDK	1975p (–21p)
Bankamerica	1800p (–59p)
Barclays	375p (–10p)
Lloyds	377p (–10p)
Nat West	299p (–15p)
Guinness	491p (–10p)
Graham Wood	24p (–13p)
TI	562p (–11p)
Takada Chem	6187p (–37p)

Closing Prices..Page 31

WALL STREET

Shares slow to move

New York

SHARES remained under mild pressure in morning trading, with little immediate reaction to three new economic reports.

US personal income in October rose 0.1 per cent, as forecast, while personal consumption fell 0.3 per cent against the 0.1 per cent rise expected. In addition, the Chicago purchasing managers' index fell in November to 53.2 (56.3) per cent.

"The reports came out and there wasn't much of an impact," said Ricky Harrington of Marion Bass. He added that the market reflected pre-Thanksgiving trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was 4.47 points lower at 2,911.67.

□ **Tokyo** — Shares closed at their lows. Worries over Thursday's options exercise, continued bad earnings results and a lack of buying incentives also hit prices, brokers said. "After a very quiet day of steady gains we had meltdown in the last 15 minutes," said Paul Migliorato of Jardine Fleming Securities. "In thin trade like this, arbitrageurs call the tunes and so futures selling knocked the index." The Nikkei average fell 138.81 points to 22,973.28, with about 200 million shares traded.

□ **Hong Kong** — Share prices ended softer across the board on fears that America will impose tough trade sanctions on China. The Hang Seng index finished 22.8 points down at 4,179.3.

(Reuter)

	Nov 27 midday	Nov 26 close
AMP Inc	51¼	52¼
AMR Corp	59¼	59½
Abbott Labs	57¼	58¼
Aetna Life	37¼	37¾
Ahmanson (H F)	14¼	14
Air Prod & Chem	65	64¾
Albertson's	53¼	54
Alcan Aluminm	19¾	19¾
Alco Standard	33	33¾
Allied Signal	38¾	39
Alum Co of Am	57¾	57¾
Amax	19¼	19¾
Amerada Hess	47½	47¾
Amer Brands	39¾	39¾
Amer Cyanamid	54¾	54½
Amer El Power	30¾	30¾
Amer Express	19¾	19¾
Amer Genl Corp	41	41
Amer Home Pr	74½	74½
Amer Intl	87	87½
Amer Stores	28¾	28¾
Amer T & T	36¾	36¼
Amerituch	60¾	60¾
Amoco	67¾	67½
Anheuser-Busch	53	53¾
Apple Computer	51¼	51½
Archer Daniels	28½	28¾
Ashla	14¾	14¾
Armco	4¼	4¼
Armstrong Wrld	28	27½
Asarco	21¾	21½
Ashland Oil	28½	29
Atl Richfield	105½	103¾
Avon Data Pro	37¾	37¾
Avery Dennison	21¾	22¼
Avon Products	39¾	40
Baker Hughes	18¾	18¾
Baltim Gas & El	32¾	32¾
Banc One	43	43¾
BankAmerica	31¾	32
Bank of NY	29	29¼
Bankers Tr NY	60½	60¾
Barnett Bks Fl	29¾	29¾
Bausch & Lomb	51¼	50¾
Baxter Intl	36¾	36½
Bear Stearns	58¼	59¼
Bell Atlantic	44¾	45¼
BellSouth	46¼	46¼
Black & Decker	15¾	15¾
Block (H&R)	34½	34½
Boeing	44¼	44¼
Boise Cascade	21¾	22¼
Borden Inc	30¾	29¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	77¼	75¾
Browning Ferris	17½	17½
Burlington Nthn	36¾	36¾
CBS	134½	135½
CNA Financial	89½	89¾
CSX Intl	82¼	81½
Cabot	49¾	49¾
Campbell Soup	78¾	77¾
Can Pacific	15½	15¾
Cnl Citizn ABC	378½	380½
Cnl Tribune	49¾	49½
Carolina Pwr	49	48¾
Caterpillar	39¾	39
Central & SW	51¾	51¾
Champion Intl	23¾	23½
Chase Manhat	15½	16¼
Chemical Bk	21½	22
Chevron Corp	67¾	67¾
Chrysler	11¼	11¼
Chubb Corp	66¾	66
Cigna Corp	52	52¼
Cincorp	10¾	10¾
Clorox	37½	37¾
Coastal Corp	29¾	27
Coca Cola	70¾	70½
Colgate Palm	42¼	42¼
Columbia Gas	18¾	18½
Commonw Ed	42	41¾
Compaq Comp	24	24½
Comp Ass Int	9½	9½
Conagra	44	43¾
Cons Edison	25¾	25¾
Cons Nat Gas	41¼	42
Cons Rail	71½	71½
Cooper Inds	50¼	50
Coors (Adolph)	75¾	75¾
Corning Inc	84¼	84¼
Crown Cork	25¾	25¾
Dana Corp	58½	58¼
Dayton Hudson	49¾	49¾
Deere	38¾	38¾
Delta Air Lines	37¾	37¾
Deluxe Corp	32½	32¾
Detroit Edison	23¾	24¼
Digital Equip	123½	123¾
Dillard Dept St	104½	105
Disney (Walt)	55¾	55½
Dominion Res	47¾	47¾
Donelley (RR)	35	35
Dover Corp	49¾	49¾
Dow Chemicals	23¾	23½
Dow Jones	41	41
Dresser	18¾	19
Duke Power	31	31
Dun & Bradstreet	48¾	48½
Du Pont	45¾	44¾
Eastman Kodak	46¾	46½
Eaton Corp	57¾	57¾
Emerson Elec	47¾	48¾
Enron Corp	71¼	71¼
Entergy Corp	27¾	27¾
Exhxl Corp	23¼	23½
Exxon	58¼	58¼
FMC Corp	46¼	46½
FPL Group	34¾	35
Fed Nat Mtge	35¾	35½
First Chicago	23¾	23¾
First Interstate	27¾	28½
First Union Rity	8¾	8½
FleetNorstar	21	20¾
Fluor Corp	35¾	35¾
Ford Motor	34¾	34
GTE Corp	31¼	31¾
Gannett	37¾	38¾
Gap Inc Del	52¾	52¾
Gen Cinema	17¾	17¾
Gen Dynamics	48¾	48¾
Gen Electric	65¾	65¾
Gen Mills	66¾	66¾
Gen Motors	31	31¼
Gen Reinsurance	89¾	89¾
Gen Signal	50¾	50
Genuine Parts	44	44¼
Georgia Pac	47¾	47¾
Gillette	43	43¾
Goodrich (B F)	37	37¼
Goodyear Tire	48¾	48¾
Grace (W R)	39¾	39½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26½	26¼
Grtwst Wstn Fin	14¾	14¾
Halliburton	29¾	30¾
Heinz (H J)	37¾	37¾
Hercules	44¾	44¾
Hershey Foods	38¾	38¼
Hewlett Packard	48¾	49¾
Hilton Hotels	39	39¾
Home Depot	59¾	59¾
Homestake	16¾	15¾
Honeywell	57¾	57¾
Household Intl	42¾	43¼
Houston Inds	40¾	40¾
Humana	24	23¾
ITT Corp	52¾	53¾
Illinois Tool	63¼	63¼
INCO	36¾	37
Ingersoll Rand	30¾	30¾
Inland Steel	45	45¼
Intel Corp	19¾	19¾
IBM	95¾	97¼
Intl Flav & Fr	89¾	90¾
Intl Paper	67¾	67¾
James River Va	18¾	19
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	94¼	94
K Mart	39¼	39¾
Kellogg	106¾	105¾
Kerr-McGee	38¾	38½
Kimberly-Clark	93¾	93¾
Knight-Ridder	45½	46
LSI Log	7¾	7¾
Limited Inc	25¼	25½
Lilly (Eli)	87¾	89¼
LIN Broadcsg	63½	63¾
Lincoln Nat	52	52¾
Litton	87¾	86¼
Lo Claiborne	36¾	36¾
Lockheed Corp	43¾	44
Louisiana Pac	38¾	38½
MCI Commun	28	28
Manuf Hanover	24¾	25
Marriott	15¾	15¾
Marsh & McLnn	72¾	73
Martin Marietta	53¾	53¾
Mason Corp	20¾	21
May Dept St	51¾	51¾
Maytag Corp	13¾	13¾
McDonalds	56	54½
McDonnell D	70¾	72½
McGraw Hill	51¾	52¼
Mead Corp	30¾	30¾
Medtronic	75	74½
Mellon Bk	33¾	33¾
Melville Corp	42¾	42¾
Merck Inc	143	143¼
Merrill Lynch	49¾	49½
Minnesota Mine	87¼	87
Mobil Corp	62¼	61¾
Monsanto	60	60¾
Morgan (JP)	60	60¼
Motorola Inc	60	60¼
Natl Medical	13¼	13¾
Natl Semi	5½	5½
Natl Service Ind	21	21¼
Navistar Int	2¼	2¼
NBD Bancorp	39¾	40
NCNB Corp	34¼	34½
NY Times A	19¼	19
Newmont Mng	40¾	39¾
Nlsg Mohawk	17¼	17¼
NIPS B	58¾	58¾
NL Industries	9¾	10¼
Nordstrom	35¼	35¼
Norfolk Sthrn	56¼	56¾
Nthn State Pwr	41	41
Norwest Corp	30¾	30½
Nynex Corp	74¾	74¾
Occidental Pet	19¾	19¾
Ohio Edison	20¾	20¾
Oracle Systems	13¾	13¾
Orx Energy Co	26	25¾
PNC Financial	42¾	42¾
PPG Industries	45¾	45¼
Pacar Inc	46½	46¾
Pacificorp	23¼	23¾
Pac Enterprises	24¼	24¼
Pac Gas & Elect	31¼	30¾
Pac Telesis	39¾	40¾
Pall Corp	35¾	36¾
Panhandle East	15½	15
Paramt Comm	38	38¾
Parker Hannifin	29½	29¾
Penney (JC)	49¾	50¼
Pennzoil	58¼	58¾
Pepsico	29¾	29¾
Pfizer	67	67¼
Phelps Dodge	68¼	68½
Philadel Elec	24	23¾
Phillip Morris	69¾	69¾
Phillips Pet	22½	22¾
Pitney Bowes	58¾	58
Polaroid	25½	25½
Price Co	55¾	55¾
Primerica	33¾	34
Procter & Gambl	81¼	81¼
Pub Serv E & G	27¾	27¾
Quaker Oats	68¼	68½
Ralston Purina	32½	32½
Raytheon Corp	79¾	80¼
Reebok Intl	27	28¾
Reynolds Metals	49¾	49¾
Roadway Svcs	53½	54
Rockwell Intl	25¾	25¼
Rohm & Haas	39¾	39¾
Royal Dutch	78½	78¾
Rubbermaid	59¾	59¾
Safeco Corp	42¾	42¾
St Paul's Cos	67¾	66¼
Salomon Inc	27¾	27¾
Santa Fe S Pac	10¾	10¾
Sara Lee Corp	48¾	48¾
Scecorp	45¾	45¾
Schering Plough	59	59
Schlumberger	60¾	60¾
Scott Paper	33½	33¾
Seagram	111¾	111¾
Sears Roebuck	37	37
Sec Pacific	25¾	25¾
Shell Trans	53	53½
Sherwin Wllms	22½	22¾
Skyline Corp	14¾	14¾
Snap-On-Tools	30	30¾
Southern Co	31¼	31
Stwestern Bell	57¾	57¾
Stanley Works	38¾	38
Sun Company	27½	27¾
Sunmus	33¾	34¼
Super Valu	25	25¼
Sybase Corp	38¾	38¾
Symn Corp	41	41¼
TRW Inc	35¾	36¼
Tandem Comp	9¾	9¾
Tandy Corp	26¾	26¼
Telecom Corp	1	1
Teledyne	20¾	20¾
Temple Inland	42¾	42¾
Tenneco	54¾	54¾
Tesoro	58¾	58¾
Texas Inst	28¼	28¾
Texas Utilities	41¼	40¾
Textron	37¾	37½
Time Warner	83	84½
Times-Mirror	28¼	28¾
Timken	23¾	23¾
Torchmark	53	53
Toys R Us	28¾	28¼
Transamerica	39¾	39¾
Travelers Corp	19¾	19
Tribune	37¾	37½
Tyco Labs	32	32
UAL Corp	124¼	124¼
UST Inc	53¾	53¾
USX Marathon	27¾	27¾
Unilever NV	93¾	93¾
Union Camp	48¼	46¾
Union Carbide	17¾	18
Union Pacific	45½	45½
Unisys Corp	10¾	10¾
USAIR Group	10¾	10¾
USFG Corp	6¼	6¼
US Life	43½	43¾
US West	34¾	34¾
United Tech	47¾	47¾
Utd Telecomms	23½	23¾
Unocal Corp	22¼	22¾
Upjohn	39¾	40¼
VF Corp	35¾	34¾
Wal-Mart Stores	48¾	48¾
Warner-Lambert	69¾	69¼
Wash Mngmnt	36¾	36¾
Wells Fargo	57½	56¾
Westinghouse El	16	16½
Weyerhaeuser	23¾	24
Whirlpool	33¾	34½
Whittman	12¾	12¾
Winn Dixie	35¾	36¼
Woolworth	25½	26
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	62½	63
Xerox	61¾	61¾

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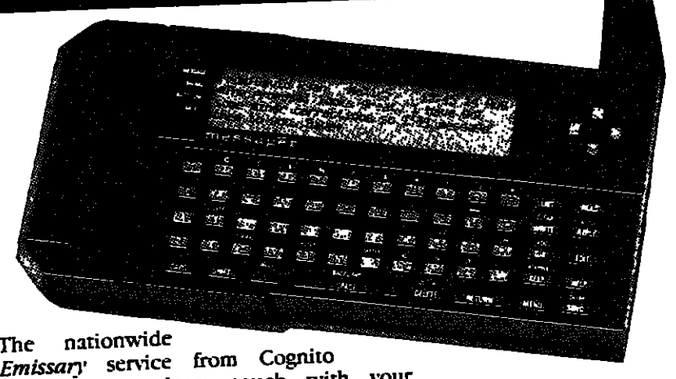
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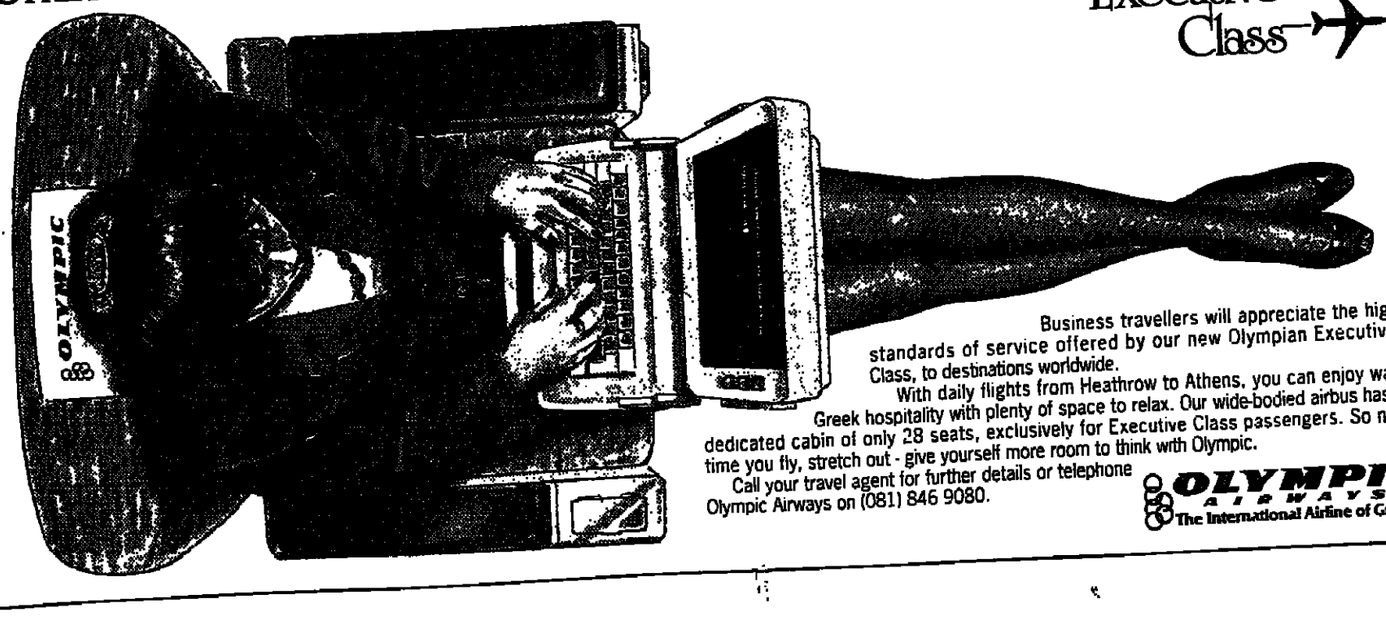
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	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
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Dividend Gth	45.77	51.83	+ 0.07	5.78
Global Gth Sec	52.82	56.19	+ 0.07	3.10
Ethical Growth	54.31	57.77	+ 0.01	2.70
High Inc Equity	130.30	139.60r	- 0.40	6.13
Worldwide Bond	211.00	223.70†	+ 0.80	6.71
Gilts Fixed Int	115.20	122.20	....	9.41

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European	65.26	69.25	- 0.01	0.33
European Inc	69.63	73.46r	+ 0.24	1.67
Exempt	766.50	795.70r	- 3.60	5.13
Extra Inc	37.31	40.32	+ 0.25	6.07
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High Inc	324.70	345.80	- 3.50	5.78
Equity Inc	183.30	195.10	- 2.00	5.18
High Yield	197.10	209.90r	- 1.90	5.57
Balanced	542.80	578.00	- 4.30	3.52
American Inc	33.96	36.16	+ 0.55	4.07
Wld Asset Val	30.85	32.85	+ 0.05	1.28
Japan	134.80	142.50	+ 0.50	0.01
Sest of Am	308.50	326.90r	+ 7.20	0.15

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European Gth	81.25	86.39	+ 0.40	1.59
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International Inc	68.48	72.54	+ 0.09	2.92
N American Gth	46.26	49.47	+ 0.99	1.64
Pacific Growth	69.13	73.92	+ 0.30	2.08
UK Growth Acc	71.57	82.95t	+ 0.58	3.69
UK Growth Dist	68.07	72.79r	- 0.34	3.42
UK Income	56.20	60.10r	- 0.21	7.45

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Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7.
081 534 5544

Capecal	96.26	97.35	- 0.12	3.67
Euro Gth Inc	91.56	97.28	+ 0.04	1.93
Extra Inc	91.12	97.45†	- 0.36	4.96
General	193.00	206.40	- 0.50	4.51
Gilt Fixd Int	91.31	93.16r	+ 0.02	10.24
Income	413.90	442.70	- 1.50	6.21

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American Gth	63.97	67.70	+ 1.02	0.30
Amer Smllr Cos	71.84	76.35	+ 0.57	....
Australia	62.05	66.50	+ 0.33	2.00
Convertibles	45.49	48.65	- 0.05	8.20
Eastern	127.00	136.70	+ 0.70	1.80
Equity Income	71.44	76.00r	- 0.63	7.00
European Gth	176.10	187.00	....	2.20
Euro Smllr Cos	147.00	157.30	+ 0.20	1.40
Exempt	61.58	69.70	- 0.54	4.00
German Growth	41.77	45.91	- 0.10	1.50
Global Growth	79.44	95.01r	+ 0.56	1.50
Japan Growth	152.50	163.10	+ 0.10	....
Japan Sunrise	121.90	130.10	+ 0.50	....
Portfolio	97.00	101.20r	....	3.60
-do-Acc	165.80	172.70	- 0.30	3.60
UK Growth	56.35	59.94	- 0.35	4.10
UK Smaller Cos	73.06	78.13r	+ 0.21	2.40
Select Managers	53.07	56.45	- 0.16	2.29

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Balan Gth Acc	91.18	96.92	- 1.29	2.71
-do-Inc	75.79	81.06	- 1.20	2.71
Global Bond	22.63	24.20r	+ 0.05	8.03
High Yield Acc	30.66	42.42	- 0.17	4.80
-do-Inc	30.96	33.11	- 0.06	4.80
Income Gth Acc	51.45	91.47	- 0.32	5.59
-do-Inc	40.82	43.66	- 0.23	5.59
Senior Co Acc	89.61	74.45	- 0.19	1.98
-do-Inc	65.54	70.10	- 0.15	1.98
Amer Gth Acc	33.12	35.42	+ 0.55	1.03
-do-Inc	32.50	34.76	+ 0.56	1.03
Euro Gth Acc	24.89	26.66	- 0.10	1.46
-do-Inc	24.24	25.93	- 0.09	1.46
Mngd P folio	24.92	26.65	- 0.01	....

BROWN SHIPLEY
Q/17 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath.
0444 455144

Financial	95.91	102.00	- 0.10	4.63
Smaller Cos Acc	191.70	204.20	- 1.90	....
Smaller Cos Inc	113.80	121.30r	- 1.10	1.60
High Inc	90.28	95.08	- 0.22	8.93
Income	92.07	96.86r	- .24	6.53
Mngd P folio Inc	97.99	103.00	- 0.08	3.51
-do-Acc	147.80	155.10	- 0.10	....
North American	74.52	79.15	- 1.13	0.27
Overs	58.04	60.76	- 0.24	....
Recovery	30.63	32.67	- 0.08	3.56
Technology	28.20	30.07	- 0.24	0.11
Continent	57.43	59.27	- 0.05	0.77
Intl Recov	27.43	29.27	- 0.04	0.11
European Inc	19.01	21.45	- 0.06	0.55
Conv General	10.69	11.77	- 0.04	10.71

BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT
Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ. 071 247 4542. Dealing: 071 247 7474

Fellowship Tst	48.89	52.56	- 0.13	3.61
-do-Acc	54.42	58.51	- 0.14	3.61
Income Fund 5	106.00	107.00r	- 0.20	8.11
-do-Acc	348.00	365.00r	- 0.70	8.11
Inv Portfolio	95.50	94.34r	- 0.23	3.07
-do-Acc	95.50	94.34r	- 0.23	3.07
Smaller Cos	105.60	113.50	- 0.40	1.55
-do-Acc	125.50	133.40	- 0.50	1.55
High Inc P folio	47.00	49.53	- 0.13	6.29

BURRAGE LIT MANAGEMENT LTD
117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL
071 480 7218

Sit Gilt Fxd Int	93.25	94.12	+ 0.01	9.57

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061 837 5060

Emerging	104.90	111.60	+ 2.10	2.31
UK Growth	113.50	120.90	- 0.10	2.57
UK Income	101.70	108.20r	- 2.20	6.22

CANNON FUND MANAGERS
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8576

SE Acc	49.50	52.94	- 0.26	2.10
Growth	39.06	41.77	- 0.23	2.48
Income	46.12	49.33	- 0.21	5.97
Far East	37.17	39.76	+ 0.26	0.75
North American	56.51	60.44	+ 1.16	0.01
Global	60.05	64.23	+ 0.72	1.35
European	55.82	59.70	+ 0.07	2.67
Japan	55.02	58.85	+ 0.37	0.01
Intl Currency Bd	47.30	50.14r	+ 0.05	7.53
UK Cap Gwth	63.51	67.92	- 0.91	2.46

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF.
Enquiries: 061 236 5685 Dealing: 061 236 5362

Capability Trusts				
American Gen	87.36	92.94	+ 1.28	0.24
-do-Acc	92.87	98.80	+ 1.36	0.24
European	55.47	59.80	- 0.14	1.50
-do-Acc	57.11	60.54	- 0.14	1.50
Far East Gen	47.30	50.32	+ 0.07	....
-do-Acc	47.30	50.32	+ 0.07	....
Glenfriars	213.10	226.80	+ 1.90	2.45
-do-Acc	232.70	247.60	+ 1.90	2.45
Growth	289.50	309.50	- 1.90	2.79
Income	104.90	111.60	+ 2.10	2.31
UK Growth	113.50	120.90	- 0.10	2.57
UK Income	101.70	108.20r	- 2.20	6.22

CANNON FUND MANAGERS
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8576

SE Acc	49.50	52.94	- 0.26	2.10
Growth	39.06	41.77	- 0.23	2.48
Income	46.12	49.33	- 0.21	5.97
Far East	37.17	39.76	+ 0.26	0.75
North American	56.51	60.44	+ 1.16	0.01
Global	60.05	64.23	+ 0.72	1.35
European	55.82	59.70	+ 0.07	2.67
Japan	55.02	58.85	+ 0.37	0.01
Intl Currency Bd	47.30	50.14r	+ 0.05	7.53
UK Cap Gwth	63.51	67.92	- 0.91	2.46

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35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF.
Enquiries: 061 236 5685 Dealing: 061 236 5362

Capability Trusts				
American Gen	87.36	92.94	+ 1.28	0.24
-do-Acc	92.87	98.80	+ 1.36	0.24
European	55.47	59.80	- 0.14	1.50
-do-Acc	57.11	60.54	- 0.14	1.50
Far East Gen	47.30	50.32	+ 0.07	....
-do-Acc	47.30	50.32	+ 0.07	....
Glenfriars	213.10	226.80	+ 1.90	2.45
-do-Acc	232.70	247.60	+ 1.90	2.45
Growth	289.50	309.50	- 1.90	2.79

-do-Acc	480.30	513.60	- 3.00	2.79
Income Growth	308.60	328.40	- 2.70	5.20
-do-Acc	384.90	409.50	- 3.40	5.20
Master Portfolio	9038.0	9641.0r	-29.00	2.85
-do-Acc	8994.0	9445.0	-33.00	2.85
Special Sits	66.01	70.23	- 0.39	2.88
-do-Acc	74.35	79.10	- 0.44	2.88
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	952.10	981.60r	- 8.90	6.14
-do-Acc	1054.0	1087.0	-10.00	6.14

CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
3 Harbour Exchange Square, London E14 9GI. 071 955 5050. Dealing: 071 955 5055

American Index	142.70	152.20	+ 2.20	2.09
Capital	438.80	467.90r	- 2.80	4.02
European Index	109.90	117.20	- 0.40	2.12
Euro Gth	71.80	76.62	- 0.31	1.94
Far East Growth	64.89	69.25	+ 0.30	0.96
Global Bond	20.47	21.83	+ 0.13	8.45
Gold General	65.69	70.10	- 0.15	1.81
Hong Kong	41.12	43.88	+ 0.04	3.20
Income	415.90	443.80r	- 4.60	6.70
Intl Growth	58.79	62.74	+ 0.51	1.41
Japan Growth	201.80	215.30r	- 1.00	....
Japan Smllr Cos	28.28	30.18	+ 0.09	....
Japan Index	61.95	66.11	- 0.10	0.34
Nth American	293.50	313.90	+ 5.20	1.74
S pore Mly Gth	32.83	35.03	+ 0.14	....
Tiger Index	88.48	94.42	+ 0.73	1.28
Tryse Index	91.05	97.17	- 0.44	4.17
UK Index	104.60	111.60	- 1.10	4.10

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN.
071 606 0708

American P folio	58.16	60.07	+ 0.10	1.81
European P folio	59.15	62.98	+ 0.41	1.25
Japanese P folio	43.78	46.51	+ 0.08	....
Pacific P folio	64.66	69.53	+ 0.40	2.88
Cazenove P folio	57.70	61.72	+ 0.21	3.28
UK Income Gth	54.56	58.67	+ 0.08	7.15

CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND
2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ.
071 588 1815

Income	523.84	528.86	....	5.54
-do-Acc	1921.3	1937.2	....	....
Deposit	10.30	....	10.70	....
Fxd Int Inc	114.65	114.87	....	10.10
-do-Acc	131.95	132.21	....	....

CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge, SE1.

City Fin Assets	50.19	52.64r	- 0.51	3.01
Beckman Intl	63.04	64.88r	- 0.11	5.34
Friars Hse Inc	161.60	171.50r	- 2.10	5.58
Friars Hse Cap	202.90	215.00	- 3.30	2.83

COMMERCIAL UT MANAGERS
St Helens, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ. Enquiries: 081 681 2222. Dealing: 081 686 9818

American Gth	73.32	78.00	+ 1.19	1.23
European Gth	73.58	78.25	- 0.44	1.06
Far East Gth	70.23	74.71	+ 0.52	0.54
Japanese Gth Acc	33.69	35.84r	+ 0.12	....
Managed	50.78	54.02r	- 0.22	3.99
-do-Acc	59.35	63.14	- 0.27	0.54
Mthly Inc Plus	41.37	44.01	- 0.01	9.92
Smaller Cos	28.47	30.29	- 0.09	2.41
UK Acc	50.54	52.28	- 0.09	3.24
UK General	58.54	62.28	- 0.63	3.24
UK Inc	47.11	71.30	- 0.71	3.24
Wwide Bd	46.22	52.89	+ 0.45	5.14
Wwide Eq	50.53	53.33	+ 0.54	5.14
Wwide Sp Sits	42.14	45.01	+ 0.21	0.61
Quilter General	43.73	46.77	+ 0.22	4.97
Quilter General	101.46	107.94†	- 0.88	1.82
Quilter Int	104.03	113.99	- 0.95	1.92
Quilter Income	92.77	98.07	- 0.60	4.75
Quilter Intl	98.07	105.30	....	....
-do-Acc	98.86	106.36	....	....
Quilter UK Spec	97.46	91.77	- 0.36	3.42
-do-Acc	97.46	92.03	- 0.46	3.42

CU Prestige Fund Management

Fin Property	91.93	97.10	- 0.85	3.11
Fixed Cony	33.13	35.24	- 0.02	9.31
-do-Acc	79.43	84.50	- 0.06	9.31
Equity Inc	122.56	130.50	- 0.94	5.51
-do-Acc	365.17	395.50	- 2.80	5.51
High Yield	100.33	106.73	- 0.66	6.11
-do-Acc	349.54	371.95	- 2.31	6.11
Preference	39.09	41.59	- 0.04	9.60
-do-Acc	180.45	191.94	- 1.21	9.60
PFT Europe	121.40	129.15	- 1.21	0.95
PFT Global Bnd	62.66	66.66	- 0.52	5.11
PFT Gold Com	45.08	47.96	- 0.24	....
PFT Thai	33.79	35.61	- 0.41	0.11
PFT Hong Kong	53.19	56.58	+ 0.48	1.85
PFT Japan	97.85	103.98	- 0.23	....
PFT N Amer	90.18	105.51	- 1.54	0.51
PFT Spec Mty	95.04	99.25	- 1.14	....
PFT UK	96.52	103.01	- 0.93	2.19
PFT Cash	54.19	54.19	- 0.02	6.92

EFM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh.
0345 090 526

Assurance	79.12	84.07†	- 1.35	....
Capital	138.30	143.50	- 0.30	2.09
Convertibles	71.72	75.51	- 0.09	8.56
Extra Inc	32.41	34.30	- 0.27	....
Mngd Exempt	139.40	145.30	- 1.90	3.61
Growth Inc	130.10	137.60	- 0.40	5.55
Higher Inc	137.40	146.00†	- 0.40	7.81
International	260.30	276.60	- 0.40	1.81
Intl Income	91.07	96.19	- 0.09	5.06
Pacific	34.33	36.45†	- 0.20	1.10
Smllr Inv Cos	55.20	61.93	+ 0.01	....
Tokyo	163.40	173.10	- 0.30	....
Acorn Exempt	153.80	158.00	- 4.40	1.14
Japan Exempt	106.50	109.70	+ 0.10	0.46
Sth Jap Exempt	494.50	505.10†	-31.10	0.10

EAGLE STAR UNIT MANAGERS
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ
0242 577 555

Oriental Op Acc	55.43	58.97†	+ 0.32	1.46
-do-Inc Acc	51.48	54.77	+ 0.15	....
UK Balanced Inc	99.05	105.40	- 0.30	3.57
-do-Acc	112.00	119.10	- 0.30	3.57
UK Growth Acc	166.50	177.10	- 0.40	3.01
UK High Inc	106.00	112.50†	- 0.30	9.79
-do-Acc	117.70	125.20†	- 0.30	9.79
N American Acc	72.63	77.27	- 1.07	0.13
European Acc	104.90	111.60	+ 0.10	1.45
UK Pref FFI Inc	56.10	59.50	+ 0.01	9.01
-do-Acc	80.40	85.28	+ 0.02	9.01
Intl Sp Sits Acc	40.53	43.44	+ 0.32	0.87
Environmental Opp	57.18	60.83	+ 0.02	2.43

ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT
41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU.
071 373 7261

Endurance	139.60	148.50	..	2.04

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7QW.
0296 431460

Pelican	96.26	101.33	- 0.62	5.28
High Income	97.59	102.73r	- 0.88	6.82
Trd of Inv Trs	107.30	113.47	- 0.28	3.45
Special Sits	89.78	94.51	- 0.42	4.55
North American	73.18	77.03	+ 1.06	0.97

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
Far Eastern	164.12	172.76	+ 0.31	1.23
Intl Growth	70.92	74.66	+ 0.02	1.97
European	54.60	57.47	+ 0.38	2.05
Smaller Cos	56.66	59.64	- 0.17	3.19

EQUITY & LAW
St George's Hse, Corporation St, Coventry
CV1 1HD. 0203 553231

UK Growth Acc	252.00	268.10†	- 2.20	3.68
-do- Inc	186.70	198.70†	- 1.60	3.68
Higher Inc Acc	434.90	462.70†	- 3.50	5.39
-do- Inc	281.30	299.50†	- 2.20	5.29
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	140.70	148.20	+ 0.10	8.80
-do- Inc	91.04	95.31	+ 0.04	8.80
Nth America	168.90	179.70†	- 1.60	....
Far East	218.30	232.30†	+ 0.50	0.32
Europe	191.60	203.90	....	....
General Inc	339.90	360.50	- 2.00	3.61
-do- Acc	358.50	380.40	- 2.10	3.61
Brit Exempt	52.48	55.85†	- 0.45	3.42
Brit Fndrnlls Inc	53.74	57.17	- 0.38	6.27
Brit Fndrnlls Acc	64.97	69.12	- 0.45	6.27
Global Opps	54.45	57.93†	- 0.06	....

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181

Atlanta	155.50	164.20†	- 2.60	....
Cash Unit Tst	134.31	134.31†	- 0.02	10.68
European Inc	91.02	97.09	- 0.38	....

FOREIGN & COLONIAL
8th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000

European Inc	77.60	82.22	- 0.30	1.59
Far Eastern	109.30	116.60†	- 0.20	....
Overs Income	68.88	73.49	- 0.45	2.80
UK Growth	67.54	72.34	- 0.26	1.50
UK Income	91.23	97.57†	- 1.18	6.17
US Smaller Cos	135.40	144.80†	- 1.20	....

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT.
071 374 4100

Am Smllr Co	286.60	311.00	+ 1.90	....
-do-Acc	292.80	317.70	+ 2.00	....
Capital	251.00	266.90	- 0.10	3.14
-do-Acc	337.60	359.10	....	3.14
Cont Smllr Cos	40.22	42.98	- 0.06	0.17
-do-Acc	40.90	43.71	- 0.06	0.17
Convertible	102.90	109.00	....	7.25
-do-Acc	173.70	184.00	....	7.25
European	84.49	90.31	- 0.21	0.80
-do-Acc	86.80	92.77	- 0.22	0.80
Extra Income	243.20	257.40	- 0.80	5.65
-do-Acc	319.00	339.30	- 1.10	5.65
Financial	62.19	66.15	+ 0.48	1.02
-do-Acc	64.35	68.45	+ 0.49	1.02
Health Fund Inc	98.90	106.10†	- 0.10	....
-do-Acc	98.99	106.47†	- 0.10	....
Income Tst	150.90	160.50	- 0.90	5.21
-do-Acc	199.80	212.50	- 1.20	5.21
Intl Growth	240.60	258.10	+ 1.90	....
-do-Acc	267.10	286.60	+ 2.10	....
Japan Gen	132.00	141.40	+ 0.50	....
-do-Acc	133.30	142.80	+ 0.40	....
Mngd P folio Inc	75.54	79.83	+ 0.04	2.10
-do-Acc	83.77	88.57	+ 0.04	2.10
Monthly Income	122.10	129.80r	- 0.60	5.71
Recovery	202.60	220.70	+ 0.10	1.05
-do-Acc	234.30	255.20	+ 0.20	1.05
Smaller Cos	37.20	39.57	- 0.01	3.54
-do-Acc	41.17	43.79	- 0.01	3.54
Gilt Gth Inc	60.97	62.88	+ 0.06	5.04
-do-Acc	66.22	68.30	+ 0.07	5.04
Gilt Inc Inc	56.87	58.64	+ 0.04	8.33
-do-Acc	66.91	69.00	+ 0.05	8.33

FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS
Pixham End, Salisbury, Wilts. SP1 3SH.
Dealing: 0722 41141 (1 Admin: 0722 411622

Equity Dist	271.43	288.76†	- 0.59	3.96
-do-Acc	532.65	566.65†	- 1.17	3.96
Euro Gth Dist	86.20	91.70	+ 0.24	0.79
-do-Acc	87.86	93.47	+ 0.24	0.79
Fixed Int Dist	114.98	121.62	+ 0.17	8.06
-do-Acc	180.36	190.76	+ 0.26	8.06
Intl Gth Dist	59.50	63.30	+ 0.27	0.70
-do-Acc	60.95	64.84	+ 0.28	0.70
Nth American Dist	137.15	145.87	+ 0.60	0.47
-do-Acc	142.20	151.28	+ 0.62	0.47
Pac Basin Dist	180.95	192.50	+ 0.02	0.29
-do-Acc	183.50	194.89	+ 0.03	0.29
Sovereignty Dist	242.19	257.65†	- 0.31	2.75
-do-Acc	329.09	349.99†	- 0.42	2.75
Spcl Sits Dist	51.62	54.92†	+ 0.01	5.40
-do-Acc	60.02	64.49†	+ 0.01	5.40
N Am Spcl Dist	65.89	70.10	+ 0.69	0.32
-do-Acc	69.48	73.92	+ 0.73	0.32

GT UNIT MANAGERS
5th Floor, 9 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YL. 071 283 2575. Dealing: 071 626 9431

Am Sp Sits	87.49	93.55	- 0.13	....
UK Capital Inc	141.40	151.30	- 1.00	4.21
-do-Acc	142.80	152.80	- 1.00	4.21
UK Spec Sits	55.11	58.95	- 0.46	1.94
Income	98.22	102.90	- 1.10	7.95
International	182.10	194.40	+ 0.80	1.30
US General	83.94	87.94	+ 0.47	0.67
Far East General	177.90	190.30	+ 0.80	....
European	308.20	329.00	- 0.60	1.17
Germany	93.94	99.35	+ 0.49	....
Intl Income	54.59	58.27	- 3.88	6.15
Wld Wide Spec Sits	90.39	96.68	+ 0.34	0.31
Global Assets In	47.51	51.09	+ 0.24	4.04
Global Assets Ac	49.34	52.77	+ 0.25	4.04
Smllr Cos Div	43.51	46.86	- 0.04	5.96

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
Gartmore House, 16/18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ. 071 623 1212. Dealing: 0277 264421 Services: 0800 289 336

UK Growth Trusts				
British Growth	33.51	35.54	+ 0.06	3.01
Cash Trust	117.48	117.48r	+ 0.03	10.34
Fixed Int Inc Inc	117.19	123.37r	+ 0.03	9.12
-do-Acc	179.90	192.92	- 1.36	3.73
UK Smaller Cos	99.89	107.12r	- 0.20	2.13
Income Trusts				
Preference Share	21.66	23.19r	- 0.42	10.87
High Inc	29.60	31.66	- 0.20	6.13
Income	100.22	107.19	- 0.78	4.54
Intl Fxd Int Inc	23.68	24.92	+ 0.06	6.82
International Trusts				
Gold Int	66.26	71.08	+ 0.24	0.93
Overseas Inc	16.448	17.57	+ 0.06	1.63
Frontier Markets	31.48	33.76	+ 0.23	0.53
Global Inc Gth	92.75	94.11†	+ 0.36	3.02
UK Intl	88.62	94.79	+ 0.01	2.29
Overseas Trusts				
American	85.04	90.94	+ 1.44	1.48
European	61.79	65.56	- 0.30	1.63
Euro Sel Opps	78.09	83.02	- 0.29	1.82
American Emerg	40.83	43.79	+ 0.92	0.02
Hong Kong	55.75	59.79	+ 0.14	2.39
Japan	151.55	161.30	+ 0.02	....
Pacific Growth	86.62	92.89	+ 0.23	1.22

GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT
Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR. 071 378 7979. Dealing: 071 588 0526

Intl Growth	99.61	106.53	- 0.12	0.73
American Gth	78.01	83.43	+ 0.83	0.29
European Gth	56.68	60.54	+ 0.10	0.85
Germany Horizn	41.13	43.94	+ 0.04	0.55
Japan Gth	62.74	67.10	+ 0.12	....
Pacific Inc	93.33	99.81	+ 0.56	2.69
Pacific Strategy	63.02	67.40	+ 0.40	0.51
UK Prog Inc	85.23	89.76	+ 0.17	7.70
Gt British Cos	43.07	46.06	+ 0.17	2.66
UK Small Cos	38.80	41.50	+ 0.96	2.68

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
GRE UNIT MANAGERS				
36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE. 071 538 9668				
Cash	120.30	120.30r	....	10.43
Gilt Fixed	108.10	114.70	- 0.10	8.17
Growth Equity	244.30	261.00r	- 2.90	3.28
Guaranteed	346.10	369.70	- 4.20	3.36
Income Trust	92.36	98.67	- 0.99	5.00
International	117.60	125.60	+ 0.70	0.26
Managed	98.70	104.80	- 0.80	2.24
Nth American	171.80	183.50†	+ 1.80	0.63
Pacific	286.70	306.20†	+ 1.30	....
Prop Shares	199.90	213.50	+ 0.20	4.59
Small Cos	229.20	237.30†	+ 0.70	2.12
European	301.30	321.90	+ 3.10	0.51

HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
PO Box 600, Edinburgh EH15 1EW.
0800 838868

Global Adv Inc	28.40

Portfolio PLATINUM

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Morrison (W)	Foods	
2	Bellway	Building,Rds	
3	Cookson	Industrial	
4	Meyer Int	Building,Rds	
5	Atwoods	Building,Rds	
6	Tiphook	Transport	
7	Hawker Siddly	Industrial	
8	Drummond	Textiles	
9	Bowater	Industrial	
10	Argos Plc	Drapery,Strs	
11	Amber Ind	Industrial	
12	Pentos	Drapery,Strs	
13	Ndrn Foods	Foods	
14	Iceland Frozen	Foods	
15	Fine Art Dev	Drapery,Strs	
16	Highland Dist	Breweries	
17	Herring Son	Property	
18	Takare	Industrial	
19	EIS	Industrial	
20	Usher (Frank)	Drapery,Strs	
21	Bezier	Building,Rds	
22	Ultramar	Oils, Gas	
23	SA Breweries	Breweries	
24	Br Land	Property	
25	Sterling Pub	Newspapr,Pub	
26	Pizzon	Industrial	
27	Smart (J)	Building,Rds	
28	Barr (A.G)	Foods	
29	Sinclair (Wm)	Industrial	
30	Clarkson (H)	Transport	
31	Woodside	Oils, Gas	
32	LWT CP	Leisure	
33	Bowater Inc	Industrial	
34	BT	Electrical	
35	Rentokil	Chems,Plas	
36	News Intl	Newspapr,Pub	
37	GWR Gp	Leisure	
38	BTR	Industrial	
39	Matthew Clark	Breweries	
40	Wilson (C)	Building,Rds	
41	Scot & New	Breweries	
42	Trans World	Leisure	
43	Broken Hill	Industrial	
44	Swire Pacic A'	Industrial	

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Please take into account any mimns signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Peter Roberts, of Chester, and Mr Kenneth Richards, of York, each receive £1,000.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
311	211	Abbey Nt	272½	– 1½	9.5	4.6	8.9
153	126	Allied Irish	167 †	...	11.5	4.2	19.0
60	23	Antofagasta (H)	35	...	1.5	8.7	...
202	121	Aus New Z	200	+ 2	...	...	6.4
2631	1218	Bankamerica	1800 †	– 59	...	...	...
1734	1154	Bk of Ireland	148 †	...	...	...	7.2 24.2
1950	1900	Bk Leumi Intl	1900 ff	...	...	...	...
350	340	Bk Leumi UK	340	...	16.0	9.3	...
126	91	Bank Scotland	117	– 1	...	5.8	25.5
489	327	Barclays	375	– 10	21.1	7.5	24.8
12	3	Benchmark	5	...	...	...	19.9
270	195	Brown Shipley	227 †	...	8.0	4.7	...
27	12½	Castle Ct	23	+ 1½	...	...	...
464	313	Cater Allen	360 †	...	25.0	9.3	...
78	52	Cattles	64	– 2	3.8	7.9	12.6
1275	531	Chase Manh	912	...	...	...	...
1037	587	Citicorp	593 †	– 12	...	...	...
270	200	Clive Bnk	260	...	8.8	4.4	12.9
8650	1500	Commercebk	8650	...	...	0.0	...
1233	1191½	Deutsche Bk	1233	...	...	2.0	...
213	35	First Nat Fin	40	– 1	13.0	...	2.4
355	260	Gerrard Nat	266	...	20.5	10.3	...
256	174	HSBC	248	...	...	4.6	...
302	204	Hambros	270	+12	12.8	6.4	10.5
413	325	Hill Samuel	330	...	15.8	6.4	...
153	107	King Shaxson	107	– 1	10.2	12.8	...
377	249	Klemwort Ben	292	– 3	16.0	7.3	...
409	268	Lloyds	377	–10	15.3	5.4	16.2
63	44	Lon Scot Bk	49	...	2.5	7.1	9.5
264	180	Midland	224	– 9	9.0	...	...
360	207	Nat Asst Bk	344	+ 2	...	7.1	9.4
357½	247	Nat West	299	–15	17.5	7.8	...
512	390	Provident	422	– 6	23.5	7.4	9.0
46	24	Rea Bros	35	...	2.0	4.7	...
211	147	Ryl Bk Scot	169	– 4	8.4	6.6	13.9
1400	1040	Schroders	1115	...	14.0	1.7	22.2
431	305	Stand Chart	391	+ 2	20.0	...	34.4
165	124	TSB	125	– 2	6.4	6.8	...
600	230	Union Disc	241	...	35.0	19.4	3.7
563	314	Warburg SG	526 †	– 1	16.0	4.1	11.0
192	108	Wardley	183	– 1	...	4.4	...
5800	2506	Wells Fargo	3187	–12	...	7.4	...
224	128	Westpac	197	– 2	...	6.3	...
353	250	Wormsr	250	...	9.3	5.0	7.4

BREWERIES

662	460	Allied-Lyons	599	– 8	18.8	4.2	14.1
1066	882	Bass	943	– 4	...	4.6	12.6
175	124	Boddingtons	162	– 1	6.0	4.9	11.7
270	173	Bulmer (H.P)	263	– 1	8.0	3.0	13.8
143	98	Burnsweet Rew	108	...	4.2	3.2	6.2
245	135	Chrgpnt (UA)	201	+ 1	5.3	3.5	14.1
120	83	Eldridge P'A'•	90	– 1	4.1	...	...
84	51	Fosters Bowing	79	+ 1	...	1.4	∞
450	360	Pullr Sn 'A'•	435	...	...	6.1	19.7
268	135	Gibbs Mew•	243	...	...	6.7	...
869	622	Greenall Whit	842½	+ 1	20.4	3.2	14.4
372	274	Greenall Whit	357	...	10.0	3.7	11.3
480	374	Grosvenr Knq	455	– 2	10.8	3.2	12.9
538	358½	Guinness	491	–10	...	3.5	15.3
1263	873	Hardy Hansn	1250	...	...	2.2	22.8
255	180	Harveys(Lds)	183	...	...	2.9	17.6
196	140	-do-'A' 1/Vte	148	...	...	2.9	17.6
308	225	Highland Dist	299 †	+ 2	5.5	2.5	19.8
279	136	Invrgordn Dist	256	...	...	3.4	18.2
495	420	Marstead	495	...	12.1	2.3	13.7
236	185	Nthn Thssy	212	– 9	4.4	2.8	17.1
438	357	Matthew Clark	438	+ 3	14.0	4.3	13.3
434	340½	Mrydwn Wv	398	...	...	2.1	19.7
365	231	Morland	350	+ 7	...	2.0	...
1110	555	S.A. Brewries	1017	+ 7	15.0	5.1	11.2
428	336	Scot & New	398	+ 2	15.0	5.1	11.2
254	174	Vaux Group	214	– 1	8.7	10.0	9.9
516	409	Whitbread 'A'	433 †	– 4	16.3	3.6	30.5
1375	1310	-do-'A'	1338 †	...	...	2.3	16.9
580	399	Wolverhampton D	581	...	...	3.4	18.1
475	389	Young 'A'	458 †	...	13.0	3.8	16.1

BUILDING, ROADS

80	40	Abbey	70	...	...	...	...
41	18	Alexon•	18½	...	4.9	5.6	8.5
142	77	Amec	129	...	...	7.6	10.2
260	177	Amec	178	+ 2	...	...	...
74	17	Anglia Sec	35	...	3.1	2.9	10.6
196	72	Ashtead	190	+ 3	...	1.6	...
247	95	Azrieli	102	...	...	10.3	20.3
245½	144½	BPB Ind	146	5	...	6.5	8.9
106	89	Baggeridge Brk	97	...	0.8	3.8	14.9
50	28	Bailey (Benj) Con	28	...	3.2	6.9	...
126	59	Barratt Devs	62	+ 1	3.0	4.6	...
159	99	Bemer	116	+ 1	11.0	6.2	...
277½	192	Bellway	257	...	...	...	...
10	3	Bellwinch	3	...	...	...	...
351	211½	Berkeley Gp	280	...	6.4	8.4	7.1
152	101	Bett Bros	101	...	4.8	7.3	9.6
122	88	Blockleys	95	– 8	11.2	4.9	12.2
286	198	Blue Circle	216	...	25.0	4.8	8.9
698	436	Bovis (Henry)	692	...	4.6	6.3	10.0
111	69	Brewdon PLC	97	...	7.4	7.6	13.6
190	93	Br Dredging	129	...	4.8	7.0	38.2
120	88	Bryan	94	...	3.4	7.3	...
105	81	CALA	82	– 3	...	3.5	10.5
266	157	CRH	251	...	3.0	...	15.7
80	32	Calcdonnel Bld	38	...	0.3	2.2	...
57	8	Cavalier Grp	18	...	...	13.3	...
40	17	Cooper Clarke•	24	...	...	24.0	...
223	59	Costain	88	...	...	6.2	6.9
150	76	Countryside	81	...	7.6	...	13.6
133	26	Crest Nicholson	55	...	...	5.6	...
12	1½	Dunoon•	2	...	1.8	6.2	9.5
47½	29	Edmund Nuttall	40	...	6.4	4.9	11.3
375	305	Ecrosse	364	– 7	3.9	8.1	18.7
77	49	Esch	62	...	9.2	5.4	8.0
266	210	Eve Group•	266	...	...	...	...
111	62	Evered Bardon	111	...	...	5.6	11.3
36½	13½	Exploranz	20	...	...	...	...
24	7	Fairey Gp	8	...	0.3	3.3	4.4
233	88	Fleetwood Grp•	96	...	4.3	4.7	13.1
104	71	Galliford	91	...	...	...	...
90	80	Gibbs & Dandy	89	...	11.8	1.8	∞
903	583	Glanvill (C)	900	...	...	5.5	14
110	26	Graham Wood	24	...	3.2	7.3	12.6
91	48	Harrison Ind	90	...	3.0	4.5	13.7
100½	64	Hawdon Stuart	84	...	...	9.0	9.0
86	63	Hemerdon	81	...	...	...	...
22	5	Hey & Croke•	11	...	...	5.6	17.1
388	260	Heywd Wms	290	...	20.0	10.6	12.4
360	134	Higgs & Hill	340	...	...	3.8	7.8
7	2	Hill Grp	3	...	0.5	4.4	9.0
21	15	Howard S Midgs	15	...	...	10.3	28.1
124	55	Hunting Johnsen	55	...	2.0	...	39.0
90	63	Ibstock	87	...	3.0	3.1	8.7
347	243	Laing 'A'	343	...	4.5	1.8	21.9
94	62	Lawrence 'A'	91	...	2.5	8.8	8.2
81	38	Lilley	78	...	7.0	7.5	5.0
196	118	Lin Holdings•	196	...	...	12.3	3.1
96	66	Lovell (Y.J.)	96	...	5.0	4.0	14.4
203	133	Mandale	203	...	6.3	7.0	46.7
137	87	Marley	137	– 1	5.0	3.6	20.3
108	82	Marshalls	108	...	4.9	4.7	14.2
181	80	Marshalls (I)	181	...	...	6.9	20.2
328	188	Mcalpine (A)	328	...	...	3.4	∞
114½	77½	McAlpine & S	96	...	...	...	...

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

183	120	Allied Colloids	167	– 1	3.5	2.8	16.9
395	301	Amersham	379 †	...	11.8	4.2	19.0
41½	28½	Anglo Ind	32	...	...	3.1	6.4
247	148	BTP	245	...	8.6	4.6	15.4
6100	4728	Bayer DM50	5962	...	...	4.7	...
224	129	Bodycote	215	...	9.5	5.9	11.9
160½	116	Brent Chems	133 †	– 1½	...	7.4	14.6
128	42	Cntnl Gp	93	...	...	3.2	7.9
171	94	Canning (W)	165	...	7.2	3.9	10.8
203	146	Ciba	159	– 2	11.0	...	12.6
218	165	Ellis & Everard	199 †	+ 1	7.0	4.7	12.5
18	12	Expo Group•	12½	...	0.6	6.9	16.0
124	43	Evode	63	...	...	6.4	13.6	10.9
33	202	Harwood (J)	382	...	11.2	3.9	10.6
200	95	Hickson	182	...	8.0	3.9	17.5
9325	6793	Hoechst	7962	...	...	4.1	11.0
1381	845	ICI	1203	– 9	55.0	6.1	21.6
607	435	Laporte	593	+ 9	17.8	4.0	14.3
351	251	Leigh	253 †	+ 1	7.6	4.0	15.2
265	136	MTM	245	+ 1	5.1	1.4	24.3
1818	1287	Norsk Hydro	1300	...	...	2.9	13.8
400	312	Pharmacon Tech	392	...	10.4	3.5	12.0
390	308	-do-'A'	385	...	10.4	3.6	11.8
246	111	Plysu	242	– 3	4.5	2.0	18.2
143	73	Porvair•	143	...	3.0	2.8	13.2
386	203	Rentokil	356	+ 1	3.3	1.2	29.1
12	7	Spcflte Speak	12½	...	...	...	...
364	204	Wardle Storeys	347 †	– 1	16.0	6.1	16.1
20	12	Wentworthe	15	– 5	0.1	0.9	...
290	215	Wiznhlme R	285	...	16.3	7.6	12.5
555	327	Yorks Chem	538	– 1	13.5	4.3	15.0
353	289	Yule Cato	320	– 1	4.7	2.8	14.5

DRAPERY, STORES

142	20	Alex Pnd•	20	#	...	...	22.7	1.4
445	267	Alexon	406 †	– 2	...	5.7	8.4
129	55	Anchor Day	129	...	2.7	2.8	∞
339	239	Argos Plc	294	+ 5	6.0	2.0	19.4
106	52	Ashley (Laura)	94	...	0.1	0.1	...
338	255	Asprey•	290	...	...	4.8	2.2	15.4
365	350	Austin Reed	360	...	...	9.5	3.5	17.8
150	122	Bernie (I) 'A'	146	...	...	5.5	3.8	14.2
195	149	Bennetts	149	...	...	3.8	3.4	30.9
226	73	Benerware	216 †	...	...	...	1.4	24.3
136	36½	Blacks Leis	128	...	...	...	3.4	11.7
350	178	Body Shop	336 †	...	1.2	0.5	45.2
38½	7	Brown (A Jackson	9½	...	1.9	...	...	...
289	183	Brown (N)	287	– 1	...	2.6	19.8
94½	30	Burton	38	– 1½	2.7	9.7	...
188	113	Cameo 'A'	178	...	4.0	3.0	11.0
355	275	Charnls	313	...	12.5	5.3	15.5
193	99	Coats Vyella	172	– 5	7.0	5.6	20.0
165	109	Colourvision•	117	...	5.6	6.4	10.4
336	154	Coura Furnish	331	...	5.0	2.0	12.9
220	82	Crown Eyes	206	...	3.5	2.3	11.4
32	17½	Dawson (D)	30	+ ½	...	2.8	13.7
274	125	Dixons Grp	214	– 8	5.8	3.6	18.9
520	283	Dunhill	435 †	– 1	7.0	2.1	15.8
37	11	ERA Gp	34	...	...	...	15.0
800	695	Elys (Wimbldn)	780	...	16.0	2.7	5.6
248	87	Elson	229 †	...	5.8	3.4	23.8
19	9½	Fields (Mrtn)•	10	#	...	...	...	...
380	212	Fine Art Dev	353	+ 1	9.8	3.7	14.8
95	60	Fred Perth Thts	85	...	4.0	6.3	16.3
454	358	Formasser	453	...	11.7	3.5	9.2
677½	451	French Connc	582	...	22.1	4.4	32.0
87	38	Gabbitas•	82	...	4.2	6.9	9.5
76	41	Gent SR	52	...	2.0	5.1	46.6
59	32	Goldsmiths Gp	37	...	3.0	11.3	6.6
2000	1350	GUS	1880	...	37.5	2.7	16.7
1455	1048	-do-'A'	1293	–19	37.5	3.9	11.4
32	20	Hampdn Hse•	30	...	0.2	0.9	14.2
320	153	Hanscombe	301 †	...	3.3	1.4	22.3
29½	12	Helene Plc	23½ †	+ ½	2.0	11.4	6.4
35	16	Hennigs•	22	...	...	...	...
193	115	Hogg Robinsn	193 †	...	5.5	3.8	19.7
19	11	Holdn	13½	...	1.2	11.9	19.0
50	20	Honeycombe•	36 †	...	1.0	3.7	∞
136	90	Hse of Lenore	131	...	10.3	10.5	13.0
208	139	Jacques Vert	194	...	10.0	6.9	8.8
582	359	Kingfisher	513	– 1	12.0	2.5	15.5
86	61	Leslie Wise Gp	66	...	4.0	8.1	7.1
663	410	Liberty	658	...	...	4.6	25.3
318	163	Lloyds Chem	295	...	4.1	1.9	14.1
301	213½	Manby Spencer	295	– 3	6.7	2.3	11.8
367	294	Mavrides (John)	330	...	...	5.0	9.0
135	113	Moss Bros	126	...	5.0	5.3	27.8
65	11½	Next	61½	– 1	0.7	...	...
126½	90	Oliver (G)	92	...	...	5.6	13.8
171	101	Pentos	154	+ 2	2.5	1.6	12.7
118	72	Pepe Group•	118	...	2.0	4.5	5.5
247	135	QS Hldgs	221	...	4.3	2.6	18.8
191	44	Ramsay Group	50	– 4	10.0	26.7	1.9
145	99	S & U Stores	140	...	8.0	7.6	6.5
243	330	Sherwood Gp•	698	...	...	5.3	11.7	36.2
104½	71	Sears	100	...	6.0	6.1	14.6
490	301	Smith WH 'A'	455	– 6	12.3	3.7	14.9
47	13	Specialeyes•	30	...	...	...	24.1
126	86	Stanehouse	97	– 1	5.0	7.1	...
235	141	T.& S. Stores	228	...	5.0	2.2	15.6
32	18	Tie Rack	27	...	...	2.5	...
166	109	Time Products	149 †	...	7.2	4.5	15.6
66	32	Usher (Frank)•	63	+ 1	4.0	8.5	9.6
65	36	Vivat	38	...	0.5	1.8	5.8
78	55	Wernercr•	68	...	...	6.9	10.6
75	27	Wickes	65	...	...	...	...
37	18	Wilding Office	27	...	1.8	...	...
51	15	Wld of Leather•	49	...	...	...	...
205	121	Wyevale•	185	...	3.3	2.4	17.4
9	5	Xtra-vision•	6	...	...	...	...

ELECTRICALS

151	89	AB Elect	89	– 2	0.1	0.1	...
150	73	ACT Group	139 †	...	...	3.6	13.4
203	168	Acal•	203	...	5.4	3.5	9.9
16	10	Acom Comp•	10	...	...	...	11.5
345	220	Admiral	288	– 2	4.2	1.9	14.1
125	63	Alba	114	...	4.3	5.1	16.0
8	1	Alphameric	1	...	...	...	...
93	30	Amstrad	31	– 1	1.4	6.0	8.3
167½	50	App Holo•	85	...	...	...	...
36	13	Arlec	17	– 2	0.5	3.9	...
30	8	Arrc	8	...	...	...	13.3
270	109	Auto Sec	134	– 2	4.9	4.9	5.4
283	168	Beales Hunter	276	...	9.1	4.4	13.5
29½	10	Bennett & Fouz	21	– 1	...	...	14.3
475	314	BICC	322	– 5	19.2	6.0	14.9
304	154	Bisset	302	...	7.0	3.1	15.0
4100	1460	Bodlands•	3913	+13	...	...	...	...
239	175	Bowthorpe	237	– 2	5.7	3.5	14.7
423½	268	BT	369	+ 1	13.3	5.2	10.0
14½	7	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	8½	...	0.1	1.6	41.6
202	136	Burnfield	136	...	...	5.9	16.4
501	429	Cable Wireless	542	+ 4	11.8	2.9	16.6
230	132	Cambridge Elc	217	– 2	10.9	6.7	13.8
22	11	Chloride	11½	...	...	...	...
294	131	CML Microsy•	228	– 3	2.9	1.4	15.7
194	102	Comptr People	122	...	...	6.2	6.8	14.0
14	10	Cranborne•	16	...	...	...	...
69	46	Cray Elec	69	...	...	...	...
451	276	Delta	420	– 3	14.0	4.4	14.3
164	135	Dennison Elc	150	...	5.6	5.0	10.2
400	161½	Domino	390	– 1	...	2.1	17.1
49	29	Dowding Mills	63	...	2.4	5.1	15.2
735	460	Druck•	735	...	...	1.6	18.9
288	193	Electrocomps	227 †	...	5.6	3.0	14.0
254	72	Elec Rtl Pro	236	– 1	3.0	1.7	9.7
41	17	Electron House	30	...	2.2	10.0	22.2
54	22	Emess	29	...	3.5	...	...
311	181	Eurotherm	302 †	...	7.0	3.1	16.0
78	35	FKI	73	...	3.3	4.5	14.6
246	186	Farnell Elec	219	– 2	5.5	3.3	13.3
36	14	Feedback•	15	...	0.5	4.4	10.3
19	4½	Ferranti	6½	...	...	...	...
89	19	First Tech	41	...	1.0	3.3	...
82	41	Forward Tech	70 †	...	2.2	4.3	10.5
227	71	Forward Tech	172	...	...	...	...
180	75	GEC	180	– 5½	9.2	6.9	9.6
222	166	Gen Scanning	222	...	7.3	3.5	14.1
713	435	Hazrid Simon	648	...	...	0.5	1.2	9.6
70	48	Hdstone Sp	70	...	...	0.5	2.9	29.0
393	345	Hodgsns Gp	392	...	...	2.8	5.6	4.8
315	50	INSTEM•	68	...	...	2.8	5.6	11.8
215	120	Jones Stroud	190	...	...	8.5	5.8	10.7
29	20	Kemsley	20	...	...	5.0	2.2	9.4
310	163	Kode	308	...	...	7.5	...	...
143	102	Lasr Scan	103	...	...	...	...	3.8
35	18	Laser-Scan•	18	...	...	0.4	0.8	...
79	42	LBMS•	67	...	10.0	3.6	12.4
320	253	Lec Refrig	316	...	14.5	7.6	21.1
166	144	Life Sciences	155	– 3	2.9	2.5	20.2
244	144	Logica	228	– 2	3.5	2.0	43.2
63	41	LPA Indx	55	...	...	11.0	3.8	15.9
393	223	Marconi	382	...	...	3.6	6.8	8.0
64	35	Magnetic Mat•	59	...	1.4	3.6	9.9
410	193	Meiwor Sys•	310	...	7.3	3.1	13.1
235	141	Microfilm Rep	177	...	3.0	3.6	27.1
192	116	Micro Focus	149	+10	...	...	21.0
2125	711	Micro Power	1498	...	...	4.1	4.9	12.1
181	93	Microtec•	113	...	...	7.0	5.7	12.3
191	119	Microgen	164	...	...	...	...	...
27	17	Microvisn•	17	...	...	...	...	...
24	10	Mirror	20	...	3.6	3.6	15.2
870	648	Atlas Equip•	858	...	19.5	3.0	17.5
85	46	Aquitaine Metal	47	...	2.7	...	4.4
165	104½	BBA	123	+ 1	...	6.1	17.3
233	67	BET Ord	211 †	+ 1	13.2	8.4	23.6
115	28	BLP Group•	53	...	1.2	3.1	...
441	235	BM Gp	408	– 2	3.4	1.1	12.8
625	468	BOC	572 †	– 8	...	3.3	8.1	15.0
59	36	BSG	53	...	...	17.2	5.7	9.7
413	265	BSS Group	404	...	...	3.8	3.3	12.1
442	292	BTR	386	+ 5	15.7	5.4	12.4
235	116	BWI	137	– 1	...	6.5	13.7

Shares slide in nervous trade

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 25. Dealings end December 6. §Contango day December 9. Settlement day December 16. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

FINANCE, LAND

337	301	Abingworth	334	...	4.0	1.6	70.2
40	22	Allied Home	35	– 1	1.0	3.9	9.7
23	11	Amstrad	11	#	...	...	...
54	37	BWD•	46	...	1.7	5.1	12.5
148	90	Baltic Plc	125	...	4.1	4.4	6.1
148	118	Berkely Gowar	126	...	...	8.6	3.8
18½	3	Bourne Anderson	6½	...	...	...	13.3
378	313	Caledonia	316	...	13.5	5.7	12.6
2100	1700	Camellia	2000	...	25.0	1.7	16.5
293	213	Cardrew	235	...	8.5	4.8	22.4
168	108	Charter	154	...	5.3	3.4	15.9
11	6	Guidehouse•	6	...	0.1	2.2	...
362	130	Harvey Thomp	185	...	...	16.5	...
19	8½	IFICO	8½	...	...	...	...	...
130	53	Popy Stne	127	– 1	5.7	6.0	21.6
12	5½	LIT	7¾	...

SPORTS LETTERS

Council refuses rate relief

From the Chairman of Cleve Rugby Football Club

Sir, Though making intense efforts to preserve amateur sport, we have again been refused rate relief by Kingswood Borough Council, our local authority.

The rules laid down in the government practice note make it clear that, provided a club satisfies perfectly reasonable criteria in respect of its membership and that it is truly non-profitmaking, it should qualify for relief. Our club answers these criteria in every respect.

It is the main purpose of the organisation which should be the important factor, yet many local authorities, including Kingswood, are still determined to base their policies on whether or not a club has a bar to qualify for the relief that they are empowered to give. This despite the fact that they can reclaim 75 per cent of any grant by way of refund from central government.

Sport helps to teach young people qualities of self-discipline, responsibility to others and an awareness of personal fitness which provides in itself a powerful foil to less desirable activities. It also provides a social life that mixes people from all walks of life, brought together for a common purpose with no regard for creed or colour.

Young people are constantly under attack for what they do wrong, but when volunteers in the community do something positive about it, instead of receiving the support they deserve, they have to spend a great deal of their free time raising money to pay these ludicrous bills.

Local councillors are elected to serve the best interests of their community, but whose interests are they serving by diminishing the efforts and ability of people who work for sport in providing facilities that are often not available from the state?

We have a youth membership of over 80 boys, ranging in age from six to 13. We hope to keep them in sport, where the only police that are needed are called referees, but our local councillors seem to be doing their best to make that virtually impossible.

Yours sincerely,
P. J. WARNE,
Chairman, Cleve RFC,
Bromley Heath Road,
Downend,
Bristol, Avon.

Further afield

From Mr Graham Paterson

Sir, I am surprised to read, in your report of the hockey match between Southgate and Havant (November 25), that "Havant survived their first big test". Only a month ago, Havant conceded their only points so far in a 3-3 draw with Teddington. Since they were behind on three occasions in that game, it was at least a "big test", and they showed their character and ability by coming back each time.

Your hockey correspondent implies that there are only three clubs that matter — Havant, Hounslow and Southgate — and apparently gives little credit to the remaining sides in the National League, in particular East Grinstead, Teddington and Stourport, who are all close behind the leaders.

This attitude annoys many hockey followers in this country and I fear that the England manager and selectors may not look further afield, which could be detrimental to Britain's Olympic cause.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM PATERSON,
22 Grange Avenue,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.

Punishment to fit crime

From Mr Mike Whittingham

Sir, The controversy regarding the case of Robert Hamilton-Jones, the club athlete banned for four years for failing to provide a sample for a drug test (report, November 16), exemplifies the pressures on athletics to address key issues in the modern world.

As a former athlete and now a national coach responsible for encouraging the proper development of the sport, I wholly support the commitment of both the old and new British athletics administration in issuing clear, loud messages regarding drugs and drug-testing procedures.

Inconsistencies or misunderstandings could lead to dangerous precedents being set, so that one is led to ask whether the sport has the correct system to ensure that the contrasting worlds of high performance and amateur athletics are carefully reconciled? In short, does the punishment meet the crime?

Magistrates courts and crown courts exist to deal with different levels of offence under the laws of the land. Athletics should make similar differentiation between the amateur, club athlete and the professional, who competes at international level. After all, the publicity surrounding the Hamilton-Jones case has already sent the right messages to all possible offenders.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE WHITTINGHAM,
Rhodens,
The Green,
Sands,
Farnham, Surrey.

Boxing policy

From Mr Lindsay James Keith

Sir, Miss Cleland (November 21) makes a good point well. However, for the foreseeable future and certainly until there is some electoral mileage in it, boxing will remain legal. Miss Cleland will be outraged, the organisers will pick up the cash and the neurosurgeons will stay in work.

While the wealthier promoters (and let's not pretend that boxing is universally wealthy) may have suitable financial provision in place, it would be constructive and, I suspect, possible for the British Boxing Board of Control to oblige boxers or their managers to lodge a policy of insurance against medical expenses at their headquarters and keep it in force as a precondition of permission to box legally. This may at least go part of the way to meeting Miss Cleland's complaint.

Yours truly,
LINDSAY KEITH,
1 Bedlam Street Cottages,
Bedlam Street,
Hurstpierpoint,
West Sussex.

Manchester is supported

From the Honorary Treasurer of the British Olympic Association

Sir, David Miller (November 22) claims that the support of the British Olympic Association towards Manchester's Bid for the 2000 Olympic Games is, at best, "damagingly lukewarm" and its elected officers fail to show a united supportive front.

As one of those elected officers, may I remind you of the overwhelmingly supported resolution of the National Olympic Committee (i.e. the BOA) last April to back Manchester's bid to the hilt.

Last month we confirmed our full participation in the administrative structure for promoting the bid. It is a real commitment and the culmination of totally amicable and detailed discussion with the bid committee and Manchester City Council.

Naturally there are concerns, shared independently by the prime minister, whose positive encouragement should not be belittled, that the bid must not only be a good one but also one that has a realistic chance of success. How one expresses those concerns must depend upon the individual, but I can confidently assert that none of our elected officers wil be heard in any way resiling from the spirit or the supportive front displayed by the National Olympic Committee.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT WATSON
(Honorary Treasurer,
British Olympic Association),
3 Temple Gardens, EC4.

The going rate

From Mr Peter D. Grundy

Sir, There still appears to be no hope of agreement between the bookmakers and the rest of the racing industry on who should fund the sport.

Lord Howard de Walden, the then senior steward, made the observation that the bookmakers got a first-class product from racing and it was about time they paid the going rate for it.

If this is true, and no one seems to be complaining about the actual substance of racing, the problem would seem to be one of marketing. I would, therefore, suggest that the best way to get full value for the product is not to enter into an exclusive contract with a cartel of your customers, particularly if you are very much a minority shareholder in that consortium. The Racecourse Association should withdraw from Satellite Information Services (SIS) and let its members negotiate separately with the bookmakers course by course, meeting by meeting.

The racecourses should not be tricked into believing that there is no alternative to SIS. Provided a sponsor can be found, I believe there is enough spare capacity on satellite television to provide an alternative service for the public at home. This would enable people to bet via their switch cards into the on-course Tote.

Bookmakers wanting to use these broadcasts would have to pay a licensing fee and this money could be used by the courses to enhance prize-money, the *lignum vitae* of horse racing.

Yours faithfully,
PETER D. GRUNDY,
24 Dartmouth Road, NW2.

Oxford blues

From Mr David Irons

Sir, Has it occurred before that, while Cambridge is right at the top, Oxford is at the very bottom? I refer, of course, to the second division of the Football League.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID IRONS,
Bryn Hyfryd, Llansadwrn,
Menai Bridge, Gwynedd.

RACING

Piller voices concern in Desert Orchid debate

BY MICHAEL SEELY

PETER Piller, the owner of Blazing Walker, joint-favourite at 7-2 with Remittance Man for the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day, yesterday expressed his concern about the wisdom of subjecting Desert Orchid to further racing after the grey's disappointing third to Sabin Du Loir at Huntingdon on Tuesday.

"I watched the race from Switzerland on SIS," said the 48-year-old Zurich-based industrialist, who has been Britain's leading National Hunt owner for the past two seasons. "It was extremely sad to see Desert Orchid beaten once again. He really tries and gives everything but if he were mine I would stop him now."

Piller, an experienced man with horses, not only has 20 jumpers in training with Arthur Stephenson in Co. Durham, he also owns five show jumpers which he still rides competitively as an amateur.

Opinion remains divided about the merit of Desert Orchid's Huntingdon effort. Stephenson commented: "Desert Orchid is not the horse he was. I know a sharp track like Huntingdon didn't suit him, but the way he was left behind at the third last suggests that he's lost just a bit of his spark."

Interestingly, most jockeys are of the opinion that Desert Orchid will still take all the beating when the 12-year-old attempts to win his fifth King George. Peter Scudamore and Richard Dunwoody said as much at Huntingdon, and yesterday Neale Doughty commented: "It would be crazy to write Desert Orchid off. David Elsworth knows exactly what he's doing and he is sure to have left plenty to work on."

Elsworth, Desert Orchid's intuitively gifted trainer, is clearly feeling the strain of the situation: "Of course, he's not as good as he was but he may still be good enough to win another King George. He had a very hard race on Tuesday and unfortunately he needs a race like that to get him right nowadays. Getting a horse fit is a tough business."



Stephenson: doubts over Desert Orchid

The depressing element of the grey's gallant efforts at Huntingdon was the way in which he struggled so vainly to get to grips with Sabin Du Loir. And it was worrying to see him hesitant at several of his fences compared with his spectacular leaping in the past. The furious pace on a fast track was responsible for some of this hesitancy, but not altogether.

A personal view is that Desert Orchid will still go close to gaining that magical fifth victory on Boxing Day. He is in his element at Kempton and is still in better form than he was at the same time last year.

After that Richard Burridge and his joint owners, including his father, Jimmy, the horse's breeder will face an agonising decision. But win, lose or draw, it is difficult not to feel that he should be retired with dignity after Christmas. Desert Orchid has surely done enough.

☐ Drum Taps has been sold to Japanese businessman Yoshio Asakawa following his unplaced run in the Japan Cup on Sunday but will stay in training in Britain with Lord Huntingdon next season.

Aintree offers record prizes

BY DICK HINDER

WHILE the racing industry still battles against the tide of recession, the Aintree management yesterday lightened the gloom with the announcement that added prize-money at the Grand National meeting next year will top £500,000 for the first time.

There will be a record level of £635,000 for the three-day meeting on April 2 to 4, with the Grand National worth an estimated £170,000.

Announcing the news in London, Patrick Martell reported that the sponsoring company would make a £324,000 contribution towards the total £506,000 of added money.

John Parrett, clerk of the course at Aintree, outlining some fine tuning at the meeting, reported that the race conditions for the John Hughes Memorial Handicap Chase on the first day had been adjusted to include a rating band of 0 to 145 to encourage good chasers just below top class.

The Sandeman Maghull Novices' Chase (2m) has been switched to the Thursday with the Mildmay Novices' Chase (3m 1f) run on Friday to provide more variety in race distances for spectators.

The BBC's audience figure for this year's Grand National was £17½ million and, to enhance the coverage, the big event will now be the fourth race on the card, scheduled to start at 4.0pm.

Ivan Straker, of Seagram Distillers, stressed: "Eight years ago, Aintree was in a mess but a fairy godmother came along in the form of Seagram. Now we welcome Martell to continue a fine association."

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Young Pokey poised to shine

ONE of the intriguing aspects of racing at this time of year is to see which of last season's hurdlers will make the grade over fences. **Young Pokey** was one of the best two-mile novices of last season when winning at Newbury and Kempton, before beating the highly-rated Minorettes Girl at Punchestown in April.

Now he switches from timber to birch in the Taxinews Magazine Novices Chase, and it is hard to see any of the opposition posing much of a threat unless Young Pokey is let down by his jumping.

However, Oliver Sherwood reports that Young Pokey has taken well to fences on the schooling gallops and the trainer is already looking towards the Arkle Trophy at the Cheltenham festival.

Tim Forster, who is enjoying a fine season, can win the Mercia FM Novices' Hurdle with **Hursthill**, who made a pleasing debut when fourth to Young Hustler at Worcester.

Danny Connors, another of last season's more talented hurdlers, makes his chasing debut in the Heads Nook Novices' Chase at Carlisle. The seven-year-old, who has won point-to-points in Ireland, came to this country with a great reputation and went some way to living up to that when winning the Coral Hurdle final at Cheltenham last March.

Military Secret may well be the biggest danger, but his

MANDARIN

form does not have the same stamp of class and it is difficult to see him troubling my selection.

For my nap I turn to **The Antartex** in the Dalston Handicap Chase. The eight-year-old, only once out of the frame in seven starts last season, has been prone to jumping errors but won at Haydock and put up what was perhaps his best performance when five lengths second to J-J-Henry in the John Hughes Memorial Trophy at Liverpool.

Cornet, the top weight, will have the edge in fitness, but seems to be paying the price for his successes of last season and may have to wait until the handicapper relents before getting back to the winner's enclosure.

Mary Reveley and stable jockey Peter Niven have become a formidable partnership in recent seasons and they can strike with **Fairways On Target** in the Ladbroke Raceaid Handicap Hurdle.

Fairways On Target won here on his reappearance and was leading at Wetherby until a bad mistake put paid to his chances. The winner that day, Persian House, meets my selection again but on 7lb worse terms. If Fairways On Target can get his jumping together, he should be able to reverse the form.

At Taunton, **Spring To Glory**, a good third behind Northern Nation at Nottingham last week, could prove the one to be on in the Orchard Portman Selling Handicap Hurdle.

Finally, at Lingfield, Mark Prescott can land a double with **Helawe** (2.25) and **Battle Colours** (2.55). Helawe showed himself to be in good form when winning here two weeks ago and looks set for another success in the Badajoz Handicap, while Battle Colours should be suited by the return to five furlongs.

Blinkered first time

11.55 Line Drummer 12.25 Myasha. 12.55 Swagman. Lord Advocate 1.55 Dance On Sixpence 3.25 Clare Kerry Lass

WARWICK

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
12.40 Hursthill.	12.40 Troubadour Boy.	2.10 RYMER KING (nap).
1.10 Young Pokey.	1.10 Young Pokey.	
1.40 Norquay.	1.40 Fighting Words.	
2.10 Senator Of Rome.	2.10 Rymer King.	
2.40 Paco's Boy.	2.40 Deadline.	
3.10 Welsh Siren.	3.10 Welsh Siren.	
3.40 Nicholas Mark.	3.40 Billy Bathgate.	

GOING: GOOD

12.40 MERCIA FM NOVICES HURDLE (£1,696: 2m 5f) (12 runners)

1	353P-00	CHEEKY FOX 12 (V) (J Westley) J Bosley 5-10-12	M Bosley	92
2	02P32-0	CITY KID 47 (Pell-Mell Partners) J Gifford 8-10-12	NON-RUNNER	—
3	305-4	FASTAUFAN 12 (Mrs A Tudor) R Akehurst 4-10-12	J Leach (3)	92
4	PP0P-	HAZZARD'S BOY 257 (D Hazzard) W Turner 6-10-12	—	—
5	4	HURSTHILL 15 (S Sainsbury) T Forster 6-10-12	C Llewellyn	84
6	0-00	MAN OF MYSTERY 10 (A Carver) C Trietline 5-10-12	R Bellamy (3)	62
7	00-03	MEKSHARP 26 (B Marsh) J Smith 4-10-12	I Lawrence	70
8	F/PP/PP	ROUGH CUT 17 (P Clarke) R Juckes 6-10-12	J Osborne	—
9	600060-	SABRE LONG 190 (Miss V Phillips) L Codd 5-10-12	R Strange	—
10	402-6	TROUBADOUR BOY 15 (BF) (D Peppiatt) T Thomson Jones 5-10-12	S Smith Eccles	99
11	0	YOUR OPINION 15 (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	—
12	P-	PENLEA LADY 237 (Mrs S Addinsell) K Bridgwater 4-10-7	D Bridgwater (3)	—

BETTING: 9-4 Hursthill, 5-2 Troubador Boy, 100-30 Fastaufan, 7-1 Your Opinion, 8-1 Meksharp, 14-1 Cheeky Fox, 16-1 others

1990: COWDEN COTTAGE 6-10-10 S McNeill (25-1) D Chesney 25 ran

FORM FOCUS

FASTAUFAN 7l 4th of 22 to Light Veneer in novice handicap hurdle, here (2m, good), with CHEEKY FOX (2lb better off) 17l 9th. HURSTHILL 18½l 4th of 24 to Young Hustler in a novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good to soft). TROUBADOUR BOY (same terms) 7l 8th and YOUR OPINION (same terms) 21½l 8th. TROUBADOUR BOY 5l 2nd of 12 to Castle Secret in a novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f, good to firm) on final start last season.
Selection: TROUBADOUR BOY

1.10 TAXINEWS MAGAZINE NOVICES CHASE (£2,974: 2m) (5 runners)

1	20/2432-	EUROPA POINT 206 (G Johnson) M Robinson 6-10-12	J White	—
2	5600F-0	FENTON BRIDGE 12 (Pell-Mell Partners) A Turnell 7-10-12	L Harvey	—
3	010P/U/	PIRACY 722 (G,S) (Mrs S Thomson Jones) Mrs D Haine 7-10-12	J Short	—
4	1P2131-	YOUNG POKEY 219 (F,G) (M Obersteen) O Sherwood 6-10-12	J Osborne	—
5	566324-	SHAMANA 215 (G) (Lord Northampton) D Nicholson 5-10-7	R Dunwoody	—

BETTING: 2-7 Young Pokey, 6-1 Shamana, 7-1 Europa Point, 12-1 Fenton Bridge, 16-1 Piracy

1990: CINNAMON RUN 6-10-5 A Adams (13-2) N Gaselee 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

EUROPA POINT 2l 2nd of 8 to Nadad in a novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm). FENTON BRIDGE showed little form in novice chases after winning a National Hunt flat race at Naas (2m, good to soft) last season. PIRACY has shown no worthwhile form since winning a handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 100yd, good to soft) in December 1988. YOUNG POKEY was a top-class novice hurdler last season, beating Minorettes Girl ½l in a 5-runner listed race at Punchestown on final start (2m, good). SHAMANA 7l 4th of 22 to Makarem in a novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm). All are making their chasing debut.
No selection

1.40 GLANNOST HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,038: 2m) (7 runners)

1	U603-04	FIGHTING WORDS 11 (G) (Pell-Mell Partners) J Gifford 5-12-0	S Smith Eccles (GB)	97
2	2U563/2-	ANOTHER SCHEDULE 455 (F,G) (Mrs G Black) C Brooks 10-11-5 N Arnelchenko (USSR)	—	—
3	322201-1	NORQUAY 12 (D,F,G) (Don Enrico Incisa) N Tinkler 6-10-11	R Beggan (Ire)	95
4	35-2222	FIVE LAMPS 21 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Holder) R Dickin 11-10-10	A Erkenov (USSR)	96
5	2124P2-	APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE 14F (D,G) (S Moss) A Reid 4-10-9	K Kassaev (USSR)	99
6	15-4215	LA RAPTOTTE 17 (D,F,G) (A Wright) M Charles 4-10-0	R Dunwoody (Ire)	92
7	P051P-1	FRONT PAGE 10 (D,G,S) (Amity Finance Ltd) J Akehurst 4-10-0	P Scudamore (GB)	98

Long handicap: La Raptotte 9-5, Front Page 9-3
BETTING: 11-4 Fighting Words, 3-1 Norquay, 4-1 Front Page, 11-2 Five Lamps, 8-1 La Raptotte, 10-1 Appliancoefscience, 12-1 Another Schedule.

1990: SAGAMAN 4-10-12 S Smith Eccles (9-2) L Codd 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

FIGHTING WORDS 3½l 4th of 5 to Granville Again in a hurdle at Leopardstown (2m 2f, yielding to soft), and was 5l 2nd of 13 to Viking Flagship in a novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m, good to soft) on final start last season.
ANOTHER SCHEDULE 3½l 2nd of 5 to Full Strength in a handicap chase at Worcester (2m, good) on only start last season, and was 13l 3rd of 14 to Express Air in a handicap hurdle at Ludlow (3m 1f, firm) on final start the previous season. NORQUAY awarded the race after being beaten 12l by Sexy Mover in a 21-runner handicap hurdle at Cattenick (2m, good). FIVE LAMPS 20l 2nd of 11 to Ambrose in an amateur riders' handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE head 2nd of 7 to Old Mill Stream in a novice hurdle at Hexham (2m, hard). LA RAPTOTTE 18l 5th of 13 to Easy Buck in a handicap hurdle at Wolverhampton (2m, good to soft). FRONT PAGE beat Spitfire Jubilee 8l in a 16-runner conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good).
Selection: FIGHTING WORDS

2.10 WESTMINSTER-MOTOR TAXI INSURANCE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,510: 3m 1f) (6 runners)

1	2F1BUP-	CUSHINSTOWN 270 (S) (S Lucey) M Pipe 8-12-0	P Scudamore	80
2	2P221P/	STEEPLE VIEW 823 (G,S) (C Heath) O Sherwood 10-11-9	J Osborne	—
3	/1011/1-	HURRY UP HENRY 239 (F,G,S) (G Harwood) G Harwood 12-11-2 Miss A Harwood		86
4	5/051P/	AGAINST THE GRAIN 600 (D,G,S) (H Shouler) D Nicholson 10-11-1	R Dunwoody	—
5	P3143-4	RYMER KING 14 (D,F,G,S) (G Hutsby) J Clugg 9-10-10	J Short	99
6	426P3-3	SENATOR OF ROME 15 (F) (H McCall) G Balding 8-10-0	J Frost	93

Long handicap: Senator Of Rome 9-12
BETTING: 9-4 Senator Of Rome, 100-30 Hurry Up Henry, 4-1 Rymer King, 5-1 Cushinstown, 7-1 Steeple View, 10-1 Against The Grain

1990: SAMSUN 8-10-4 M M Lynch (15-8) J Webber 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

CUSHINSTOWN is an Irish import who has failed to complete the course after a winning chase at Punchestown (3m, heavy) in January. STEEPLE VIEW beat Field Conqueror a neck in a 10-runner handicap chase at Newbury (3m, heavy) on penultimate start. HURRY UP HENRY beat Tom Bir 15l in an 8-runner handicap chase at Worcester (3m, good) on only start last season.

AGAINST THE GRAIN beat Comedy Lane 8l in a 10-runner handicap chase at Wolverhampton (3m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start. RYMER KING 9l 4th of 9 to Bit Of A Clown in a handicap chase at Towcester (2m 5f, good to firm). SENATOR OF ROME 16l 3rd of 6 to Parsons Green in a handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good).
Selection: SENATOR OF ROME

2.40 PERESTROIKA HANDICAP CHASE (£2,640: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1	112PF-P	DUKE DE VENDOME 28 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Thomson Jones) Mrs D Haine 8-11-10	J Short (Ire)	95
2	1241/32	FOLK DANCE 40 (CD,F,G,S) (B R B Owners Plc) G Balding 9-11-9	A Erkenov (USSR)	98
3	25313F-	PACO'S BOY 224 (D,F,S) (F Rosling Ltd) M Pipe 8-11-2	G McCourt (GB)	99
4	001FP-4	SALCOMBE HARBOUR 14 (V,D,G,S) (R McHardy) P Nicholls 7-10-12	R Dunwoody (Ire)	90
5	F1223-0	DEADLINE 20 (CD,G,S) (C Newton) J Leigh 8-10-2	N Arnelchenko (USSR)	93
6	P3-434P	WISE CRACKER 24 (B,D,F,G,S) (M Webster) B Richmond 10-10-0	S Smith Eccles (GB)	95

Long handicap: Wise Cracker 9-4.
BETTING: 13-8 Folk Dance, 9-4 Paco's Boy, 4-1 Salcombe Harbour, 11-2 Duke De Vendome, 12-1 others

1990: DEADLINE 7-10-10 R Dunwoody (11-4) J Leigh 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

DUKE DE VENDOME's best recent effort was when 8l 2nd of 6 to Uncle Ernie in a novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft). FOLK DANCE short head 2nd of 8 to Tom Bir in a handicap chase at Stratford (2m 5f, good). PACO'S BOY beat Water Orchid 12l in a 5-runner novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, soft).
SALCOMBE HARBOUR was a distant 4th of 9 to Mister Ed in a handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good). Better judged on when beating Noel Luck 5l in an 11-runner novice handicap chase at Wolverhampton (2m 4f, good). DEADLINE 10l 3rd of 10 to Simple Pleasure in a handicap chase at Southwell (2m, good to soft), with WISE CRACKER 27½l 5th. WISE CRACKER's best recent effort was when 15½l 3rd of 8 to Dontpushme in a claiming chase at Southwell (2m, good to firm).
Selection: DUKE DE VENDOME

3.10 RED SQUARE CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,563: 2m 5f) (11 runners)

1	6-21205	STAGE PLAYER 28 (F) (J Joseph) R Simpson 5-11-8	P Scudamore	99
2	211B1	WELSH SIREN 14 (F,G) (R Dawes) K Bailey 5-11-7	A Tory	75
3	2153-	OK CORRAL 372 (F) (Mrs C Dartford) J White 4-11-4	—	67
4	463050-	COCKSTOWN LAD 205 (B,F) (D Baldwin) R Akehurst 5-11-3	L Harvey	87
5	44-542P	SUREN 14 (B) (M Peters) C Weedon 5-11-2	R Dunwoody	83
6	44UPP-0	CLWYD LODGE 33 (B) (P Clarke) R Juckes 4-10-12	—	79
7	71/U0-PPP	BHARKAT 24 (B,D,F) (W Scott) J Norton 5-10-10	P Harley	—
8	80-2360	HARD TO GET 17 (M Barraclough) M Barraclough 4-10-10	Ann Stokell	88
9	452-P00	WEAREAGRANDMOTHER 17 (V,F,S) (P Rich) Granville Richards 4-10-9	A Flannigan (7)	92
10	6P-4164	MO ICHI DO 24 (B,F,G) (Miss S Wilton) Miss S Wilton 5-10-6	—	84
11	300-0U0	TAP DANCING 21 (G) (J Allen) J Allen 5-10-8	D Bridgwater (3)	74

BETTING: 5-4 Stage Player, 5-2 Cockstown Lad, 3-1 Welsh Siren, 8-1 Mo Ichi Do, 12-1 OK Corral, 14-1 others.

1990: SECRET FOUR 4-11-9 L Harvey (5-2) R Akehurst 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

STAGE PLAYER's best recent effort was when ½l 2nd of 3 to Fly The Wind in a handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, good). WELSH SIREN was awarded race when 1½l 2nd of 11 to Annicombe Run (later demoted) in a handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f, good). OK CORRAL 22½l 3rd of 11 to Crystal Beam in a novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m, good to firm). COCKSTOWN LAD 32l 7th of 14 to Squire Jim in a handicap hurdle at Chepstow (3m, good). SUREN ¾l 2nd of 7 to Officer Crowler in a handicap chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, good) on penultimate start, and Well And Truly 3l in a 9-runner maiden hurdle at Lingfield (AW, 2m 4f, standard) last February. WEAREAGRANDMOTHER 12l 2nd of 9 to Myfor in a claiming hurdle at Devon (2m 3f, hard) on final start last season. MO ICHI DO's best recent effort was when beating Stoney Creek 12l in a 10-runner selling handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m, good), with BHARKAT pulled up.
Selection: STAGE PLAYER

3.40 KREMLIN NOVICES HURDLE (£1,300: 2m) (20 runners)

1	223U-1	AMBROSE 21 (D,F) (Mrs G Houghton) R Johnson Houghton 4-11-5	Mr G Johnson-Houghton	99
2	P	BERA FLOR 24 (B Edwards) F Jordan 4-10-12	J Lodder	—
3	50-	BILLY BATHGATE 218 (M Buckley) N Henderson 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	—
4	44-4P	CAPITAL PUNISHMENT 22 (Mrs M Gilee) Mrs F Walwyn 5-10-12	B de Haan	76
5	0/55-	CELTIC CATCH 315 (Mrs B Long) J Bosley 5-10-12	M Bosley	61
6	03	CITRUS KING 64 (Rodney Day) J Banks 4-10-12	R Beggan	81
7	0	FARM STREET 21 (Exors of the late L Salmer) P Walwyn 4-10-12	C Llewellyn	—
8	6/F50-	FIRST AVENUE 58F (C Drewe) C Drewe 7-10-12	L Harvey	82
9	0	FLING IN SPRING 26 (H Porter) J McConnochie 5-10-12	J Short	—
10	D	J BRAND 21 (Miss B Brooks) J Moore 4-10-12	W McFarland	—
11	00/	JUMP 686 (M Thompsett) S Mellor 5-10-12	M Perrett	—
12	2245-22	KNIGHT'S SPUR 12 (BF) (A Tarrant) J Webber 4-10-12	M Lynch	72
13	0	NICHOLAS MARK 20 (J Ogden) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-10-12	D Byrne	—
14	0P/	NIGHT CLUB 108F 1438 (J Simpson) J Smith 7-10-12	I Lawrence	—
15	0/	ROLFESON 21F 1074 (Needwood Racing Ltd) B Morgan 7-10-12	R Strange	—
16	05-0	ROYAL PROGRESS 22 (D Clark) S Sherwood 5-10-12	J Osborne	—
17		STRIKE IT RIGHT (R Williams) C Vernon Miller 5-10-12	W Humphreys	—
18		STYLISH GENT 40F (R Gomersall) N Tinkler 4-10-12	G McCourt	—
19	430-B23	BALADIYA 23 (Mrs R Hawes) Mrs D Haine 4-10-7	S Smith Eccles	73
20	0/0-	HOPEA 366 (M Barraclough) M Barraclough 5-10-7	S McNeill	—

BETTING: 4-5 Ambrose, 5-1 Knight's Spur, 6-1 Billy Bathgate, 8-1 First Avenue, 10-1 others.

1990: CHEERFUL TIMES 7-10-10 T Wall (14-1) B McMahon 23 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMBROSE impressive when beating Five Lamps 20l in an 11-runner amateur riders' handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). CAPITAL PUNISHMENT 9½l 4th of 17 to Sukaab in a novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. FARM STREET, winning 1m handicapper on the Flat, tailed-off 12th of 17 to Run Up The Flag in a novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm), with J BRAND 13th. FIRST AVENUE 5½l 7th of 15 to Switch in a novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m, good). KNIGHT'S SPUR 11½l 2nd of 22 to Light Veneer in novice handicap hurdle over course and distance (good). BALADIYA 3l 3rd of 9 to West With The Wind in a novice handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to firm).
Selection: AMBROSE (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
J Gifford	10	31	32.3
W Turner	3	10	30.0
R Akehurst	11	39	28.2
K Bailey	7	26	26.9
M Pipe	27	104	26.0
G Balding	10	44	22.7

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
P Scudamore	22	83	26.5
M Perrett	6	24	25.0
S Smith Eccles	7	48	14.6
G McCourt	7	49	14.3
R Dunwoody	13	99	13.1
J Osborne	6	48	12.5

CARLISLE

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
12.45 Frickley.	12.45 Frickley.	2.45 Cornet.
1.15 Harpley.	1.15 Sexy Mover.	3.15 Marcellina.
1.45 Danny Connors.	1.45 Danny Connors.	
2.15 Forward Glen.	2.15 Thistleholm.	
2.45 THE ANTARTEX (nap).	2.45 Bobbie Stack.	
3.15 Fairways On Target.	3.15 Tartan Tailor.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.15 SILK DEGREES (nap).

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.45 CALDBECK NOVICES HURDLE (£1,962: 2m 1f 110yd) (22 runners)

1	50000-0	ANOTHER FOUNTAIN 20 (Mrs E Dixon) J Dixon 5-10-10	N Leach (7)	79
2	0605	ANOTHER MARCH 59 (C Dobson) J Birkett 5-10-10	S Turner	—
3	4	CEE-JAY-AY 20F (R Jinks) J Berry 4-10-10	P Niven	—
4	00/P-	CENTRAL PACIFIC 306 (D Robertson) D Robertson 7-10-10	Mr D Robertson	—
5	00/	DUTCH SCHULTZ 503F (J Raffan) S Leadbetter 5-10-10	C Hawkins	—
6	3F/P0-	FREE MINX 59F (P Aconley) Mrs V Aconley 5-10-10	P Midgley (7)	—
7	60-2	FRICKLEY 13 (R Ogden) G Richards 5-10-10	N Doughty	99
8		GRAND OVER (P Cox) G Richards 5-10-10	C Kellett	76
9	/5/0F-5	HIGHLANE LAD 14 (Exors of the late Mr H Harpur-Crewe) T Donnelly 7-10-10	L O'Hara	82
10	5	HIGH ROCKING 13 (Mrs M Monteith) P Monteith 4-10-10	B Storey	—
11	4-	KIRKTON GREY 262 (A Bell) C Parker 4-10-10	G Harker	—
12		REXY BOY 59F (J Collins) W Barker 4-10-10	C Grant	—
13	F	SILVER HAZE 13 (P Pitler) W A Stephenson 7-10-10	T Reed	66
14	034-00	TIMANFAYA 17 (Mrs D Cuthert) Mrs D Cuthert 4-10-10	J Supple (7)	—
15	P00-100	BREAK AWAY BRIDGE 39 (G) (N Miller) N Miller 5-10-5	Mr D Parker (7)	—
16		CHEAP 'N' NICE (Mrs K Clark) C Parker 4-10-5	Mr R Hale (7)	—
17	2	MAZMOOR 12 (Mrs A Eubank) A Eubank 5-10-5	A Dobbin (7)	94
18	44323/3	ROSE TABLEAU 13 (Mrs H Wells) Mrs H Wells 8-10-5	J Gallagher	—
19		SAFFRON VENTURE 779F (Mrs J Mason) Mrs J Mason 4-10-5	R Hodge (7)	98
20	0030-36	SAGE BRUSH 43 (Miss A Smith) B Wilkinson 5-10-5	—	—
21	000-10P	SLANTZ 31 (G) (N Miller) N Miller 5-10-5	Carol Cuthbert (7)	—
22	P5/65P6-	TEN A PENNY 183 (C Kevans) T Cuthbert 11-10-5	—	—

BETTING: 7-4 Frickley, 5-1 Sage Brush, 6-1 Rose Tableau, 7-1 Cee-Jay-Ay, 8-1 Grand Over, 10-1 Mazmoor, 12-1 Silver Haze, High Rocking, 14-1 Kirkton Grey, 16-1 others.

1990: WILD ATLANTIC 7-10-10 M Dwyer (10-1) Jimmy Fitzgerald 14 ran

1.15 ASPATRIA CLAIMING HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,497: 2m 1f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	21	HARPLEY 20 (G) (Northumbria Leisure Ltd) S Kettlewell 11-6	S Taylor (7)	80
2	0003-2D	SEXY MOVER 12 (S) (A Crook) W Storey 11-2	K Doolan	99
3	20-2444	KEY DEAR 19 (A Gibb) Mrs S Bradburne 10-12	P Williams (7)	84
4	056	JUST EVE 28 (M Steele) J Charlton 10-9	B Storey	—
5	4D	LAW CHAMBERS 19 (Miss J Thompson) M Naughton 10-8	G Harker	71
6	224-P64	ROYAL MAZI 40 (V,CD,F) (Unique Racing 11 Plc) C Beever 10-7	W Marston (7)	79
		HINARI VISION 21F (Miss S Hainey) P Monteith 10-3	L O'Hara	—

BETTING: 11-10 Sexy Mover, 7-2 Harpley, 6-1 Key Dear, 8-1 Hinari Vision, 10-1 Just Eve, Royal Mazi, 14-1 Law Chambers

1990: A GENTLEMAN TWO 10-8 M Dwyer 7-2 (G Moore) 7 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
C Beever	5	14	35.7
Mrs G Reveley	9	34	26.5
G Richards	26	120	21.7
J J O'Neill	11	75	14.7
S Parker	9	62	14.5
J Jefferson	4	28	14.3

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
N Doughty	18	58	31.0
P Niven	16	65	24.6
M Dwyer	12	57	21.1
M Alston	3	17	17.6
K Doolan	7	47	14.9
K Johnson	3	21	14.3

1.45 HEADS NOOK NOVICES CHASE (£2,496: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

1	834520-	ABERCROMBY CHIEF 241 (Abercromby Corporation) K Oliver 6-11-6	T Reed	—
2		BUCKLE IT UP (A Mactaggart) A Mactaggart 6-11-6	Mr D Mactaggart (5)	—
3	30416-6	DANNY CONNORS 7 (G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 7-11-6	M Dwyer	—
4	60/00-P0	FIEFDOM 5 (F,G,S) (C Clark) W Storey 11-11-6	L O'Hara	—
5	1643/F0-	FLODDEN FIELD 358 (F,S) (Mrs R Wilkinson) B Wilkinson 8-11-6	NON-RUNNER	77
6	00-P40P	HOME TO ROOST 6 (G,S) (F Jessiman) F Jessiman 11-11-6	G Thomson (7)	99
7	0435P-3	INTARSIA 8 (J Hinchliffe) K Oliver 7-11-6	B Storey	—
8	00/00F-	KING SPRING 216 (Mrs D Johnstone) C Parker 6-11-6	P Niven	93
9	333-36F	MIAMI BEAR 10 (G) (J Campbell) J Berry 5-11-6	C Grant	—
10	008-110	MILITARY SECRET 9 (F) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 5-11-6	—	—
11	64330-0	MISTER TUFTIE 13 (F) (Major I Straker) G Richards 6-11-6	K Doolan	—
12	6/P/014-	OUR HERO 241 (S) (D Cook) W Storey 8-11-5	C Hawkins	87
13	0/P/4P-2	THE RANNOCH 13 (S) (D McGuinness) S Leadbetter 8-11-5	—	—

BETTING: 4-5 Danny Connors, 3-1 Military Secret, 6-1 Mister Tuftie, 10-1 Miami Bear, 12-1 others

1990: ARDBRIN 7-11-13 G Bradley 1-2 (T Tate) 11 ran

2.15 LIBRA GRAVURE CYLINDERS NOVICES HURDLE (£1,884: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

1	0-5U1	THISTLEHOLM 17 (S) (CD) (W Nelson) W Nelson 5-11-4	D Bentley (7)	84
2	25-2F	BIG MAC 10 (BF) (Lee Construction Ltd) G Richards 4-10-10	N Doughty	99
3	0	CULSYTH 12 (W Culty) P Bevan 4-10-10	C Hawkins	—
4	00U0-00	DAVARA 8 (D Nicholson) S Leadbetter 5-10-10	C Grant	—
5	87	FORWARD GLEN 40 (F) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 4-10-10	L Harvey	82
6	P00-	HEY JOE 302 (A Pirie) P Monteith 4-10-10	P Niven	—
7	32/4	LEVY FREE 12 (B Parry) Mrs G Reveley 8-10-10	D J Moffatt (7)	86
8	50-0208	PLATINUM REBEL 20 (S Ramsey) J Charlton 4-10-10	K Johnson	83
9	63	RED CARDINAL 36 (W Stephenson) W A Stephenson 5-10-10	B Storey	—
10		ROYAL STREAM (Mrs D Johnstone) C Parker 4-10-10	M Dwyer	—
11	0	WRAGBY 12 (M Al-Sulsam) J J O'Neill 4-10-10	G Lyons	—
12	RPP-	YECAERT 232 (J Carden) J Carden 9-10-10	T Reed	—
13	50/0/0	SUNY ZETA 13 (Mrs R Goldie) R Goldie 7-10-5	—	—

BETTING: 11-4 Forward Glen, 3-1 Big Mac, 7-2 Thistleholm, 9-2 Levy Free, 8-1 Red Cardinal, 12-1 others

1990: KUSHBALOO 5-10-10 B Storey 11-8 (C Parker) 12 ran

2.45 DALSTON HANDICAP CHASE (£2,654: 2m) (6 runners)

1	111-323	CORNET 9 (V,D,F,G,S) (Duke of Sutherland) Denys Smith 5-11-10	C Grant	98
2	311F1-P	BOBBIE STACK 17 (F,G) (I Dalgleish) J J O'Neill 7-11-8	M Dwyer	99
3	223122-	THE ANTARTEX 236 (D,G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill Ltd) G Richards 8-11-4	N Doughty	98
4	4P6/6P-5	BRANDY HAMBRO 12 (C,S) (R Green) C Parker 10-10-4	B Storey	97
5	P/2306-5	MERCURIUS 13 (D,S) (Mrs A Robertson) D Robertson 9-10-2	R Marley	98
6	P242-05	VALENTINOS JOY 20 (V,CD,F,G,S) (B Hutchinson) G Oldroyd 12-10-0	P Midgley (7)	96

Long handicap: Valentinos Joy 9-9
BETTING: 5-4 Cornet, 11-4 The Antartex, 7-2 Bobbie Stack, 12-1 Valentinos Joy, 16-1 others

1990: THE LANGHOLM DYER 11-11-11 L O'Hara 6-1 (G Richards) 5 ran

3.15 LADBROKE RACEAID HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,206: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1	23R0-03	MARCELLINA 12 (CD,G,S) (Mrs M Charlton) E Alston 9-11-10	M Alston	83
2	13224-1	PERSIAN HOUSE 27 (D,G,S) (T Mowbray) J Jefferson 4-11-8	M Dwyer	84
3	PP00-55	TARTAN TAILOR 9 (F,G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill Ltd) G Richards 10-11-8	N Doughty	96
4	1440-14	FAIRWAYS ON TARGET 27 (CD,F,G) (G Fawcett) Mrs G Reveley 5-11-4	P Niven	80
5	631P-32	SILK DEGREES 7 (F) (G Keary) W Storey 5-11-3	K Doolan	99
6	00-3212	INTEGRITY BOY 15 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs V O'Leary) R O'Leary 4-10-8	L Wyer	83
7	46160-0	HOUXTY LAD 19 (G) (W Aitcheson) J Charlton 5-10-3	B Storey	84
8	55-2FP6	CARSWELL'S CHOICE 17 (F) (R Fisher) R Fisher 8-10-1	R Hodge (7)	93
9	5P2P-33	BALLYLORD 9 (BF) (J Clayton) J J O'Neill 7-10-0	F Murtagh (7)	89
10	3P/403-0	NON PERMANENT 19 (B,G) (E St Quinton) B Rothwell 5-10-0	R Supple	87
11	001440/	ROYAL INVADER 581 (D,S) (M Sunley) M Dods 7-10-0	A Merrigan	—

Long handicap: Ballylord 9-12, Non Permanent 9-9, Royal Invader 9-8
BETTING: 2-1 Persian House, 7-2 Fairways On Target, 4-1 Silk Degrees, 6-1 Ballylord, Integrity Boy, 8-1 Tartan Tailor, 12-1 others

1990: MIAMI BEAR 4-10-1 R Fahey 9-1 (J Berry) 9 ran

LINGFIELD PARK

MANDARIN

11.55 Adjacent. 12.25 Inherent Magic. 12.55 Plectrum. 1.25 Tara's Delight. 1.55 Angelo's Double. 2.25 Helawe. 2.55 Battle Colours. 3.25 Lord Vivienne.

THUNDERER

11.55 Adjacent. 12.25 Myasha. 12.55 Blackdown. 1.25 Tara's Delight. 1.55 Polyroll. 2.25 Helawe. 2.55 Battle Colours. 3.25 Lord Vivienne.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW TO MIDDLE BEST

11.55 VITTORIA CLAIMING STAKES (Div I: £2,226: 1m 4f) (12 runners)

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Samaranch must act on Helmick evidence


Helmick: under fire

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and his executive board colleagues have to bite the bullet. Evidence put before them this week on the financial and ethical conduct of Robert Helmick, the United States member of the executive board, is so damaging that there is little alternative to requesting Helmick's resignation at the formal board meeting in Lausanne on Wednesday.

Helmick, who resigned as president of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) in September, following exposure of personal deals worth $300,000 (about £168,000) on Olympic-related affairs, could pre-empt the board's action by voluntary withdrawal in the next few days.

DAVID MILLER

No executive board member has ever been dismissed but the IOC's ethical reputation is so under fire that firm authority cannot be side-stepped here.

The report of the special counsel to the USOC executive committee — presented by Arnold I. Burns, the former United States deputy attorney general — indicts Helmick, who is also a former president of the international swimming federation (Fina), on eight counts:

☐ Failure to subordinate personal interests to those of the Olympic movement.
☐ Failure to serve without personal gain.
☐ Failure to avoid institutional loss or embarrassment.
☐ Failure to enhance public trust and confidence in the USOC.
☐ Failure to avoid the *appearance* of conflict of interest.
☐ Using USOC authority and influence for private benefit.
☐ Failure to exhibit loyalty and candour.
☐ Placing at risk the confidentiality of USOC information.

The report states that, while Helmick did not seek to influence other USOC officers or staff, he repeatedly violated conflict-of-interest provisions "without adequate or, in several cases, any disclosure".

Six weeks before signing a marketing agreement as USOC president, Helmick had signed a private retainer agreement with the same company. The report concludes: "We believe Mr Helmick has under-estimated the seriousness of his conduct".

Before the IOC executive board meets next week, its own commission of three lawyers — Keba M'Baye, of Senegal, Marc Hodler, of Switzerland, both IOC members, and Francois Carrard, the director general — have to decide to what extent, legally, the findings of the Burns commission apply to the IOC. That seems to me a mere matter of detail. As an international Olympic figure of credibility, Helmick is effectively dead in the water.

Samaranch must be aware that the world is watching. And waiting. With acknowledged corruption by a small minority of IOC members in the electoral voting process for host cities, there is an urgent need to visibly demonstrate the IOC's probity. The Helmick controversy, therefore, comes almost as a convenience for doing so.

Two regulations of the IOC Charter give clear guidance on Helmick's ineligibility. Rule 20, members, recruitment, sub-section six — "members may not accept ... any mandate liable to bind them or interfere with the freedom of their action or vote". Cessation, sub-section four — "a member may be expelled if the Session considers such member has neglected or knowingly jeopardised the interests of the IOC or acted in a way *which is unworthy of the IOC*" (my italics).

Samaranch's style on past controversies has sometimes been to lie low until the gunsmoke has cleared. That cannot work this time. Helmick's acceptance, either as executive board member or plain IOC member, will be seen as verification that, in the supposedly most hallowed of sporting bodies, anything goes.

It is a pity that the USOC has ducked the issue and not formally requested Helmick's replacement as one of its two IOC members; the other is Anita DeFrantz, the most obvious and well qualified as long-term successor as USOC president. The Charter requires IOC members, ex-officio, to be included by both national Olympic committees and Olympic Games organising committees; in Helmick's case, Atlanta in 1996.

The rupture of credibility runs wide. If Samaranch was looking to the USOC to bite the bullet, it has, perhaps predictably, passed the task to him. It would seriously undermine the stature of the executive board if responsibility for disciplinary action was now shelved and the matter was then raised from the floor at the Session in Albertville before the Winter Games in February.

Forwards profit from positive approach

Cambridge fall just short after spirited recovery

Cambridge Univ 20
Steele-Bodger's XV ... 23

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MICKEY Steele-Bodger's invitation side, stronger than for many years, ended a run of six successive defeats in the annual encounter at Grange Road yesterday, but the plaudits were for Cambridge University. Thirteen points down at the interval, their response was so positive that just a penalty goal, the only one attempted during the afternoon, stood between the teams at the finish.

Eighty minutes of vigorous movement lit up a misty Fenland day, much of it the product of the understanding between the two New Zealand centres, Craig Innes and Walter Little. Innes, indeed, scored two tries in the guest team's victory by two goals, two tries and a penalty goal to two goals and two tries, and their work underlined Little's curious omission from the All Blacks' back division for much of the World Cup.

The Light Blues appear in better order than their opposite numbers at Oxford. The teams for the University match are due to be announced on Monday, and Cambridge were close to their optimum XV. Decisions have to be made at centre and in the back row, and they will hope that Adrian Davies, their captain, is fit.

Davies had hoped to play yesterday but decided not to risk his damaged neck. All in all it was not a great day for the Davies family since his brother, Lloyd, failed to last the course, leaving the field after a heavy tackle by Clough which left him winded, though Lloyd Davies at least had the satisfaction of having sent Given on his way to the university's second try.

As encouraging as anything was the university's forward play. They dominated the lineout, even against the lanky Bayfield, who found Dix, the Australian, a rare handful. Sheasby's jumping at No. 8 was productive, and he has the support of Peters, a much-improved player. The tight forwards also covered the field well in support of their back row, and it was apposite that Dix should have registered the third try when Given was held on the short side of a scrum.

The guest XV may have felt that, 13-0 up at half-time and with various guns at their disposal, victory was assured. Hunter had an outstanding first half, seeing more attacking ball in 40 minutes than he has with Northampton all season, before a strained calf muscle which has niggled him for weeks produced a bout of cramp and a switch with Little to the midfield.

Hunter's insertion gave Halliday the chance to send in Innes for the first try, and the same players paved the way for a try on the short side of a scrum by Francescato, the lively Italian scrum half. Dominguez added a penalty but Cambridge were encouraged by Price's confident play and an increasing coherence to their driving forward play.

The stand-off half made the little dart which, improved by Underwood and Dix, led to de Maid's try. Innes crossed for his second after Little stood up well in a tackle, but Given's check and inside switch baffled Hunter and kept Cambridge noses to the wheel. Bates was just beaten to the touch after charging down Dominguez's kick, but the try came, none the less, from Dix following the scrum.

Steele-Bodger's XV suggested a capacity for producing a score when required after Francescato darted away with a tapped penalty. Halliday supported and despite de Maid's excellent cover tackle, was able to send in Hunter. The last word was emphatically Cambridge's: Peters turned Bayfield over, de Maid chipped into space and Underwood, captain for the day and the hardest of workers, seized the ball from under Pegler's nose to score his seventeenth try of the season.

SCORERS: Cambridge University: Tries: De Maid, Given, Dix, Underwood. Conversions: Johnson (2). M R Steele-Bodger's XV: Tries: Innes (2), Francescato, Hunter. Conversions: Dominguez (2). Penalty goal: Dominguez.
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: *A Parton (King Henry VIII, Coventry and St Edmund's), *R Given (Rugby and Jesus), L Davies (Pensoed CS and St Edmund's, rep *N Robinson, King Edward VI, Morpeth and Hughes Hall), S Johnson (RGS Newcastle and Magdalene), *T Underwood (Barnard Castle and St Edmund's, captain); K Price (Aberdare and St Edmund's), M de Maid (Lady Mary HS, Cardiff and Hughes Hall), B Davies (Brisbane GS and St Edmund's), B Gegg (Wimbledon College and Hughes Hall), M Chapple (Eastbourne College and Trinity), E Peters (Brentwood and Hughes Hall), M Duthie (Backwell and Queens'), D Dix (Shore, Sydney and Hughes Hall), C Bates (Reigate GS and Magdalene), *C Sheasby (Radley and Hughes Hall).
M R STEELE-BODGER'S XV: I Hunter (Northampton), *F Clough (Wasps and England, captain), C Innes (Bedford and New Zealand), W Little (Rugby and New Zealand), *S Halliday (Harlequins and England); D Dominguez (Milan and Italy), I Francescato (Milan and Italy), M Linnett (Moseley and England), M Barry (Old Gravesendians), P Burnell (London Scottish and Scotland), D Pegler (London Irish), N Edwards (Harlequins), M Bayfield (Northampton and England), N Back (Leicester), *R Post-Jones (Bantz).
Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset).
* A Blue

HUGH ROUTLEDGE


Defence breached: Halliday evades a Cambridge tackler yesterday

SPORTS POLITICS

Council calls for government to pledge backing

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

MINDFUL that a general election is only months away, the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) yesterday published a manifesto for sport.

Its seven-point plan — announced at the outset of the CCPR's annual conference in Bournemouth — is designed to restore the financial well-being of sport, while re-establishing sporting opportunities for British children.

The manifesto calls for all political parties to pledge their commitment to:

☐ the introduction of mandatory rate relief for all sports clubs and associations which operate without profit for the good of their communities.
☐ relief of corporation tax levies on sport's national voluntary governing bodies.
☐ introduction of a pound-for-pound sports sponsorship incentive scheme similar to that available for the arts.
☐ removal of value-added tax (VAT) charges on youth sports club membership (the CCPR estimates that this would relieve children of £2.5 million in excess costs).
☐ an immediate embargo on school playing field sell-offs.
☐ the abolition of the DES regulation 909 — this was introduced by the then education minister, Neil Macfarlane, designed to allow school playing fields to be sold for development.
☐ introduction of out-of-pocket expense payments for school teachers willing to take charge of extra-curricular sporting activities.

BOURNEMOUTH CONFERENCE

Peter Lawson, general secretary of the CCPR, said: "If parliamentarians, as well as the people of this country, want to see children taken off the streets and into sports, then direct action along these lines must be taken. British sport is top of the European sports tax league and is suffering from government indifference and neglect. Sport is the art of the masses and should be helped, not hammered, by politicians."

Lawson said that for every £1 given in government grants, £5 is taken back in some sort of tax. "It is a nonsense that the government takes money from the body and then that body has to go back to the government asking for a grant."

However, Lawson counselled caution in the campaign for a lottery to fund sport. "Sport would have to have cast-iron guarantees that the government would actually direct money made from a lottery into sport."

Clubs assuming responsibility

THE assumption that school is the best breeding ground for Britain's sports participants of the future came under challenge in Bournemouth yesterday (Louise Taylor writes).

As the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) conference kicked off with a debate on the future of British sport, Lord Addington, who is responsible for the Liberal Democrats' line on sporting issues in the House of Lords, said teachers can no longer be expected to fashion champions of tomorrow.

Lord Addington said: "I am of the opinion that we may have passed the day when school sport, and school team sport in particular, formed the crux of competitive youth sport.

"I believe small sports clubs may represent sport's best future. They are more likely than schools to have greater access to expertise.

"But for clubs to fulfil this role there will need to be a high degree of integration and co-ordination between local authorities, schools and clubs in the pursuit of participation and excellence in sport."

Lord Addington cited the increasing popularity of mini-rugby among children as an initiative successfully implemented by junior sports clubs. In the administrative sphere, the Liberal Democrats would like to reform the Sports Council. He said they would like to create an independent body removed from government control.

Staples attacks English extremism

BY PETER BILLS

THE continual public haranguing of the English authorities by players for their reluctance to sanction commercial freedom for the international squad is in danger of becoming counter-productive, according to Jim Staples, the Irish international.

The full back said yesterday that the English players' policy of trying to knock down the door to commercialism risked provoking greater intransigence.

Staples said: "England are in the driving seat, trying to knock the door down. They seem set on revolution. Scotland are trying to chip away at it more quietly, and that may be the better plan.

"Sometimes if you overstate your case you lose some of the goodwill. I accept that it is very hard for someone who has been involved for years and has lost money because of the game to accept the situation.

"I have great sympathy for Mike Teague, who is self-employed and has lost a lot of money. But not all are self-employed like him. Several have received salaries while they have been away. I know because I did from my company during the World Cup.

"The England players have been quoted everywhere about this and by continuously referring to the issue they may make it even more difficult. I am not sure those in charge will now be prepared to back down."

Staples denied suggestions that the Irish World Cup squad was to be handed thousands of pounds by their union for missed commercial opportunities at the time of the tournament. He admitted that the players had hoped to receive a small amount, but said a figure of £200 a man was more realistic.

Relations between the Irish players and the Irish Rugby Football Union were as good now as they had ever been, Staples said. "We get on a lot better with our union than the England players seem to do with theirs."

Bainbridge recalled to reshuffled pack

STEVE Bainbridge, the second-row forward who won 18 caps for England between 1982 and 1987, returns at lock as Newcastle Gosforth make two changes for their third-round Pilkington Cup tie at home to Ruislip on Saturday.

Bainbridge replaces Alistair Meadows, while Richard Arnold, the New Zealander, returns in the back row.

Peter Walton, who has been struggling with an ankle injury, drops down to sit on the replacements' bench.

Orrell have dropped their flanker, Dave Cleary, for the cup tie against Camborne at Edge Hall Road. Sean Gallagher takes over while Cleary is named as one of the replacements.

Gerry Ainscough is unavailable, so his fellow England B cap, Martin Strett, retains the stand-off half position.

REAL TENNIS

Fahey's calm helps pull back deficit

THE talented young Australian, Robert Fahey, survived a three-hour struggle to defeat the former world champion, Chris Ronaldson, in five sets in the quarter-finals of the George Wimpey British Open championship yesterday (Sally Jones writes).

Fahey, one of the most powerful volleyers in the game, trailed by two sets to one, thanks to some fine tactical play by Ronaldson. But in the end it was Fahey's extra speed around the court and nerveless calm on big points which gave him victory. The favourite, Lachie Deuchar, looked awesome in his dismissal of the New York professional, Mike Gooding, with the loss of just four games.

RESULTS (British unless stated). Second round: K Sheldon bt M Happell (Aus), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2, C Bray bt N Wood, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1. Quarter-finals: L Deuchar (Aus) bt M Gooding, 6-2, 6-0, 6-2, R Fahey (Aus) bt C Ronaldson, 6-2, 5-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4

SQUASH RACKETS

Soutter sets sights on tasting success again

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

LUCY Soutter has rediscovered her appetite for squash. The former world junior and British champion, whose form nosedived after viral problems two years ago, is ready to taste success once again in the women's game.

From the heady days of world titles and topping the national rankings, she holds fourteenth place in the world and joint fourth on the England list. That may change for the better, though.

She is working with Ian McKenzie, the coach with whom she dominated junior squash and took her first national title in 1985, and she has relented on a commitment to vegetarianism to include some red meat in her diet again. It is all part of a rebuilding programme after almost collapsing from a viral infection on the Asian circuit two summers ago.

Soutter is playing a second season as first string for Lee-on-Solent in the SRA Women's Superleague. Despite losing comprehensively to Martine Le Moignan, the England No. 1, this week, she is optimistic.

"I played well within the new pattern I have established for myself until Martine's strength and confidence took over," she said. "I have laid back off the game for a while but now I have the appetite to compete again."

RESULTS: SRA Women's Superleague: Talking Pages Windsor 3, Lee-on-Solent 0 (M Le Moignan bt L Soutter, 9-4, 9-4, 9-4; S Wright bt L Charman, 4-9, 9-2, 4-9, 9-5, 9-0; S FitzGerald bt C Metti, 9-2, 9-3, 9-0); Reebok Nottingham 1, Mosaic Priory 2 (S Horner lost to M Martin, 9-5, 4-9, 9-0, 4-9, 2-9; J Martin bt S Langley, 5-9, 9-1, 9-3, 9-0; J Leatherbarrow lost to B Poole, 7-9, 2-9, 1-9). Positions: 1, Windsor, 11pts, 2, IMS Courtlands, 7, 3, Lee-on-Solent, 7, 4, Reebok Nottingham, 6, 5, Mosaic Priory, 5.

HOCKEY

London League agrees on merger

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

IT IS more than likely that the Pizza Express London League will cease to function at first-team level from next season, as a result of a proposed merger with the Peroni South League.

Under a new structure agreed by the London League at its meeting on November 20, there will be two equal premier leagues combining existing London League clubs with those of the South League premier division, the winner of each qualifying for the inter-league play-offs.

However, although both parties are agreeable to a merger next season, neither is committed to it. The structure for subsequent years is still under discussion. Come what may, there will be two nominees for the inter-league play-offs. The London League will continue to operate next season at lower levels, with the second XI split into two divisions.

The London League has contributed enormously to the game. The medal-winning British Olympic teams of 1984 and 1988 were composed largely of players associated with it. Ian Taylor, Paul Barber, Richard Dodds, Kulbir Bhaura, Sean Kerly, and Stephen Batchelor all played for London League clubs at some time.

The London League's proposal for a merger began with the formation in the 1988-9 season of the National League, for which the top eight teams, Southgate, Slough, Hounslow, Bromley, Teddington, Reading, Guildford, and Richmond, qualified. Its strength was consequently reduced from 26 clubs to 18.

With the advancement of St Albans and Surbiton to the National League, and the recent withdrawal of Mid-Surrey, their number has dwindled to 15, which could drop to 14 if this season's champions qualify for the National League.

The London League began in 1969-70 as the *Sunday Telegraph* Pennant League, operating in two divisions of ten clubs, which later combined to make a total of 26 with the admission of Slough, Reading, Maidenhead, Guildford, Weybridge Hawks and St Albans. Each club played a limited number of matches and the championship was decided on a percentage system. From the 1982-3 season, the top ten clubs were involved in a premier division competition.


Ashman: honoured

The London League's officers believe that the merger with the South League will improve standards and increase the opportunity for advancement to the National League.

☐ David Ashman, of Hamble Old Boys' club, will receive today from the Duchess of Gloucester a Torch Trophy Trust award for services to his sport. Ashman, aged 49, is the world's leading scorer. His total of goals is approaching 2,000.
☐ Yesterday's match between Oxford University and Blackheath was postponed because Blackheath could not raise a team.

SWIMMING

Lag in prizes payout puts Fina on spot

BRITISH internationals are calling for Fina, swimming's world governing body, to impose regulations obliging competition organisers to meet deadlines on payment of prize-money after waiting seven months for more than $5,000 owed from the World Cup final held in April (Craig Lord writes).

Their demand comes on the eve of this season's World Cup, with the first round taking place in Montreal at the weekend.

Ian Wilson, from Sunderland, whose US$1,000 second prize in the distance freestyle group owed since April was received this week, heads a list of 12 English swimmers kept waiting for payment. Rivals from other European nations and Canada were paid within a month of racing.

No-risk strategy sees Finn secure Lombard RAC Rally victory and his third world championship

Kankkunen coasts home in style

BY STEPHEN SLATER

JUHA Kankkunen, driving a Lancia Delta Integrale, returned to Harrogate last night to gain his third Lombard RAC Rally victory and become the first driver to win the world championship three times.

Kankkunen, aged 32, from Finland, had to contend with dense fog as the cars contested the final four stages of the rally through the forests of North Yorkshire. He paid tribute to his co-driver, Juha Piironen, whose time-keeping had allowed him to pace the race perfectly, keeping risks to a minimum as he maintained his lead over the Mitsubishi Galant of Kenneth Ericksson, of Sweden, and the driver Kankkunen deposed as champion, Carlos Sainz, of Spain.

Sainz, who needed to beat Kankkunen to keep his title, had lost the battle for the lead on Tuesday night, when both the radiator and rear suspension of his Toyota were damaged as the treacherous conditions turned the dark Kielder Forest into a scrapyard, with only 84 of the original 152 cars managing to survive. Quick work by the Toyota mechanics allowed Sainz to return to Harrogate in the early hours of yesterday morning still in third place, but six minutes behind Kankkunen.

When the cars were flagged away by the sports minister, Robert Atkins, to start the final leg, the Spaniard seemed resigned to losing his crown as the Lancia team offered every assistance to Kankkunen. In a masterstroke of team planning, the Lancia Delta of the former rally leader, Didier Auriol, who had dropped to twelfth place after sliding off on one of the Kielder stages, overtook several cars on the road section of the first special stage of the day, and tucked in behind Kankkunen to follow him through the forest.

The move resulted in the French driver incurring time penalties for arriving ahead of his schedule at the controls, but it meant that, should Kankkunen have suffered any problems, help would have been immediately at hand. Assistance was not needed, however, as Kankkunen maintained a six-minute advantage over Sainz.

Ericksson and his Mitsubishi colleague, Timo Salonon, of Finland, finished second and fourth respectively. They praised the stability of their cars, which use a complex system of four-wheel drive and four-wheel steering to give added security on the forest tracks.

In fifth place, the sole surviving Rothmans Subaru of Ari Vatanen suffered a problem with its power steering in the later stages, but finished ahead of the Ford Sierra of French driver Francois Delecour, who incurred time penalties after being stopped by the north Yorkshire police on his midnight return from Kielder.

After the spectacular rise and demise of Colin McRae, whose Subaru led the rally before crashing out, the top British driver was Louise Aitken-Walker, who finished tenth despite suffering severe pain after straining her hand on the heavy-duty gear change of her four-wheel drive Ford Sierra Cosworth.

Another leading prospect in British rallying, Robbie Head, aged 23, finished eleventh after dominating the Group N category for showroom standard cars in his Ford Sierra. The young Scot, who is a former schoolmate of McRae, completed the rally 24 minutes ahead of his nearest challenger.

The Vauxhall Nova of Richard Moore and William Sturrock, who had started the rally with no spares after more than £30,000 worth of parts were stolen from their service van, was still running at the start of the day after other competitors had loaned parts to keep them in the event. Sadly, though, their rally came to an end when the engine failed just two special stages from the finish. However, the similar car of the BBC Rally Quest competition prize-winner, Francine Bogg, completed the event in 67th position.



Emerging victorious: Kankunnen and his co-driver, Piironen, complete a stage yesterday

RESULT: 1, J Kankkunen and J Piironen (Fin), Lancia Delta, 5hr 46min 43sec, 2, K Eriksson and S Parmander (Swe), Mitsubishi Galant, 5:49.35; 3, C Sainz and L Moya (Spain), Toyota Celica, 5:52.43; 4, T Salonen and V Islander (Fin), Mitsubishi Galant, 5:55.34; 5, A Vatanen (Fin) and B Berglund (Swe), Subaru Legacy, 5:56.50; 6, F Delecour and D Gratalloup (Fr), Ford Sierra, 6:01.40; 7, H Makkola (Fin) and J Johansson (Swe), Mazda 323, 6:02.41; 8, M Duez (Bel) and K Wicha (Ger), Toyota Celica, 6:08.44; 9, B Saby and J Fauchille (Fr), Lancia Delta, 6:10.42; 10, L Aitken-Walker (GB) and C Thorner (Swe), 6:23.28. Other British placings: 11, R Head and C Roy, Ford Sierra, 6.27.00; 13, D Metcalfe and I Grindrod, Vauxhall Nova, 6.33.28; 16, R Burns and R Reid, Peugeot 309, 6.41.53; 17, J Milner and A Ross, Peugeot 205, 6.43.36; 18, G Jones and R James, Ford Sierra, 6.48.26; 19, J Easson and A Cook, Ford Sierra, 6.51.34.

FIA world championship: Final positions: Drivers: 1, Kankkunen, 150pts; 2, Sainz, 143; 3, D Auriol (Fr), Lancia Delta, 101; 4, M Biasion (It), Lancia Delta, 89; 5, Eriksson, 66; 6, A Schwarz (Ger), Toyota Celica, 55; equal 7, Delecour and M Alen (Fin), Subaru Legacy, 40; 9, J Recalde (Arg), Lancia Delta, 29; 10, M Ericsson (Swe), Toyota Celica, 27. Manufacturers: 1, Lancia, 137; 2, Toyota, 128; 3, Mitsubishi, 62; 4, Ford, 54; 5, Mazda, 44; 6, Subaru, 42; 7, Nissan, 16; 8, BMW, 6; 9, Renault, 4; 10, Daihatsu, 2.

GOLF

Putting will hold key to success for Baker-Finch

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

IAN Baker-Finch is well aware that the game within a game — putting — could help him complete a memorable double by winning the Australian Open, which starts here on the Royal Melbourne course today.

He is hoping to emulate Jack Nicklaus, in 1978, and Bill Rogers, in 1981, by winning both the Open Championship and the Australian Open in the same year. His prospect of doing so has been much increased by the speed of the greens.

Greg Norman, who tore up his card after three-putting eight times in the pro-am, described them as unbelievable. "They look blue, like ice," he said. "If the north wind blows, as it can here, they will be impossible."

Baker-Finch, however, is acknowledged as having the finest putting stroke in the game today. He provided ample evidence of that at Royal Birkdale in July, when he distanced himself from his rivals in the final round of the Open by playing the outward half in 29.

That triumph has brought fame and fortune for him, although it has imposed pressure on his time. "I wouldn't want to change a thing but the responsibility of being Open champion has brought a lot more requests for my presence at functions as well as tournaments," he said.

Even so, Baker-Finch would appear to be coping well. What is more, he showed his liking for Royal Melbourne 12 months ago when he scored 63 in the third round.

"I let myself down in the last round when I was too aggressive in a 76," he said. "But winning the Open has given me a lot of confidence, even though I still feel there is room for improvement."

Steven Richardson, fourth in the Australian PGA championship last week, will partner Baker-Finch while Colin Montgomerie and Ronan Rafferty play with Norman and Rodger Davis respectively.

Rafferty and Norman have struggled this season. Rafferty, first in the Volvo Order of Merit in 1989, finished 35th this year. Norman, the leading money-winner on the US PGA Tour last year, finished 53rd this year.

Norman said: "It's been a disappointing year. I've made a lot of mistakes and the biggest one was not practising as hard as I should have. I started working hard again two months ago and I'm feeling very good about myself and my game."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Dannatt to face board enquiry

BY KEITH MACKLIN

THE board of directors of the Rugby Football League will hold an enquiry on Wednesday into the incident at Hull on Saturday in which the Leeds and Great Britain loose forward, Ellery Hanley, suffered a broken jaw.

Andy Dannatt, the Hull front-row forward, who is cited by Leeds as having been involved in the incident, will appear before the enquiry, along with officials of both clubs. A videotape will be viewed and the board will decide whether to refer the matter to the League's disciplinary committee.

Meanwhile, the Leeds coach, Doug Laughton, was cleared by the League yesterday over claims that he influenced the referee's handling of a game against Featherstone Rovers earlier this month. Laughton was reported by Featherstone after he was seen talking to Ian Ollerton at half-time in the Stones Bitter championship match. Rovers had two players sent off after the interval and lost 26-20.

☐ The Australian schoolboys side, which has lost only one of 50 matches since its formation in 1972, arrives in Britain today for an eight-match tour, including two internationals. The first game is against Northwest Counties at St Helens tomorrow night.

☐ Maurice Lindsay, president of the League, is to speak to British Amateur Rugby League Association officials this weekend as part of the continuing discussions between the two bodies.

☐ John Stringer, the general manager of Widnes, is leaving to return to Leigh as chief executive.

ATHLETICS

McColgan chance of revenge

BY DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

OLGA Bondarenko, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion, will take on Liz McColgan, the world 10,000 metres champion, in the County Durham cross country meeting at Beamish on December 28.

Bondarenko, of the Soviet Union, outsprinted McColgan for the Olympic title in Seoul, but missed the world championships last summer, taking longer than the Scot to get back into her running stride after childbirth. Meanwhile McColgan, a mother of only nine months at the time, tore the field apart in Tokyo.

Bondarenko has been getting acquainted with competition again this autumn by racing on the roads in Britain — she was third in the Great London Run in September and won the Great South Run last month. It is a rare chance to see McColgan race in Britain after her triumphs abroad, including victory in the New York marathon three weeks ago.

They will be racing over 3,000 metres; it will be interesting to see whether McColgan has developed the sustained speed to counter the sheer pace of Bondarenko, which was the Scot's undoing in Seoul.

SNOOKER

Reynolds regains his confidence

BY PHIL YATES

DEAN Reynolds, who has beaten John Parrott three times in five professional meetings, once again proved an awkward opponent for the world champion during the first session of their UK Open quarter-final at the Guild Hall in Preston yesterday.

Reynolds, the world No. 12, regained his composure after a dreadful start to draw level with Parrott at 4-4 at the end of the afternoon session. It was the first time in four matches at the tournament that Parrott had shown signs of vulnerability.

Although Reynolds once held a 3-0 lead over Parrott in career meetings, thoughts of their most recent match — a 5-1 defeat in the last 16 of the Dubai Classic in October — must have intruded before play commenced.

An opening frame in which he potted only one ball, and Parrott compiled breaks of 58 and 54, did little to dissolve any self-doubt Reynolds may have developed since Dubai. In that respect, the second frame was more damaging.

Parrott, attempting to join Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis as a simultaneous holder of the world and UK titles, recovered from a 54-15 deficit with a 37 break before adding pink and black for 2-0. When Parrott, the world No. 4, made a decisive 62 break in the third, Reynolds's prospects were indeed bleak.

However, he opened his account in the fourth frame and a 106 break in the next — only the second century he has made all season — shifted the burden of pressure on to Parrott's shoulders.

The sixth frame, a disjointed affair, was resolved when Reynolds potted a long pink, and the 1988 English professional champion extended his winning streak to four frames with runs of 55 and 40. With Reynolds leading for the first time at 4-3, Parrott's defences were exposed.

Parrott, badly needing to regroup, did just that in the final frame of the session. Exploiting his first clear-cut scoring opportunity, he fashioned a 50 break to level at 4-4. He was left requiring five of the remaining nine frames to equal his previous best UK Open run — a semi-final place in 1986 and 1990.

Jimmy White, ranked one place above Parrott, survived a series of unforced errors to establish a 5-3 lead over Neal Foulds in a session full of mistakes from both players.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: J White (Eng) leads N Foulds (Eng), 5-3. Frame scores (White first): 69-31, 68-39, 28-66, 50-62, 102-8, 101-17, 30-67, 75-0. J Parrott (Eng) level with D Reynolds (Eng), 4-4. Frames (Parrott first): 117-1, 85-54, 62-1, 26-71, 0-106, 39-84, 25-102, 75-2.

CRICKET

Border betters Gavaskar's total of Test appearances

Brisbane — Allan Border will set a record for Test match appearances when he leads Australia in the first Test against India starting here tomorrow.

Border will play his 126th Test, eclipsing the record held by Sunil Gavaskar, the former Indian batsman. Gavaskar will be in the crowd to see his record broken.

The match will be Border's 63rd as captain. Aged 36, Border has not missed a Test since 1979, and has averaged 52.3 runs per innings, including 23 centuries and 52 half-centuries.

Ironically, he has his worst Test average (32.7) at Brisbane, where he plays for Queensland. Border has not scored a century since 1988, at Faisalabad in the series against Pakistan, but has scored 18 half-centuries since then.

He is regarded as one of the best thinkers in cricket, and says that is one of the reasons for his longevity. "I am always trying to analyse the way the game is going," he said.

"I'm never totally satisfied with my own performance. I always come off the ground and pick it to pieces. I try to play within certain limitations and if I am going well I will expand."

Border expects to play at least through the 1993 Ashes series with England.

India, meanwhile, have received a boost from an unexpected quarter. Kevin Mitchell, curator of the Gabba pitch, has laid out a perfect batting strip, instead of the green-top the Indians expected. Mitchell expects his first Test wicket to assist seam bowlers at the start, then settle down to aid strokeplay.

The talented Indian batsmen have struggled so far on the tour. They were bowled out for 64 by Western Australia in a one-day match, and suffered an innings defeat by New South Wales in less than three days. *(Agencies)*

Success of Boycott's master class

BY MARTIN SEARBY

GEOFF Boycott thinks England's top cricketers should take a leaf out of golfer Nick Faldo's book and rely more on expert tuition to prepare for Test series. Yesterday Boycott completed a three-day session at Headingley's indoor school with batsmen selected for the winter tours to New Zealand and the West Indies and bemoans the fact that it was two years since he was last called upon.

"Golfers at the top of the tree are in constant touch with their coaches as Faldo is with David Leadbetter. I think we should follow that course because good coaches can diagnose minor flaws which take on major proportions at Test level.

"I would like to see the people Mickey Stewart has picked out have more contact with players who want advice. As it is, I haven't seen Alec Stewart since we prepared for the West Indian trip two years ago."

Chris Lewis, the England all-rounder, is an immediate convert to the Boycott method. "I wish I could carry him round with me," he said. "Other people have identified problems in my technique but have not come up with the answer. Geoff's suggestions worked straight away."

Graham Gooch, the England captain, is so convinced of the efficacy of the Boycott master class that he has booked an extra session before the squad leaves for New Zealand on December 27.

FOOTBALL

Strachan canny about Leeds and Scotland

BY IAN ROSS

GORDON Strachan refuses to discuss retirement, although his recent performances belie the notion that he has entered the twilight of an illustrious career.

Strachan, aged 34, is more inclined to reflect on the past than ponder the future. To do anything else would, in his own words, be to tempt fate.

"It is so very hard to plan for the future in football," he said. "It is difficult, if not impossible, to say what is going to happen in the next 24 hours, never mind the next nine months or so.

"Yes, things are going well for me at the moment with Leeds United at the top of the first division and with Scotland having reached the European championship finals for the first time," he said at the launch of his autobiography, *Strachan Style — A Life in Football*.

"On a club level, I am more happy than excited. I am just pleased that the stigma which has been attached to Leeds United for the past 15 years has now gone. Our supporters are now behaving themselves and the team is playing good football.

"Qualifying for Sweden next summer is the most exciting thing to have happened to Scottish football for many years. We have a tremendous record in terms of reaching World Cup finals but perhaps people were becoming a little blasé about that. This is something new," he added.

☐ *Strachan Style — A Life in Football*, by Gordon Strachan and Ken Gallacher, is published today by Mainstream Publishing, £9.99.

Salenko strikes to give Kiev a flying start

Kiev — Oleg Salenko pounced on a poor back-pass from Gil Rui Aguas to score the goal that gave Dynamo Kiev a 1-0 victory over Benfica and the points in the new league final stages of the European Cup yesterday. *(AFP)*

☐ Dave Bennett, the winger who is on loan at Shrewsbury Town, broke his leg on Tuesday night for the second time since signing for Swindon Town 14 months ago. Bennet, aged 32, suffered a double fracture of his right leg after scoring twice at Stockport for the club he joined last week.

☐ Gordon Durie has cost Tottenham Hotspur an extra £18,000 because the first division club were a week late in lodging a £250,000 payment for the former Chelsea forward, who cost £2.2 million.

☐ Julian Dicks, the West Ham United captain who has twice had surgery to his left knee, successfully came through his first full game for 13 months yesterday when he played for the reserves against Ipswich Town.

☐ Nottingham Forest have rejected an offer from Liverpool for Roy Keane, their Republic of Ireland international, who was being linked with an exchange deal involving Dean Saunders.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Leconte in singles

Yannick Noah, captain of France's Davis Cup tennis team, yesterday named Henri Leconte as his second singles player for the final against the United States, which starts tomorrow on the Palais des Sports indoor court in Lyons.

Leconte joins Guy Forget in the singles. Noah said that he would probably play Forget and Leconte in the doubles on Saturday, but he left open the possibility of naming himself. The United States have named Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras in the singles, and a doubles team of Ken Flach and Robert Seguso.

☐ Mark Petchey and Neil Broad will join Jeremy Bates in Britain's team for the European men's championship in Zurich next week.

Benn switch

Boxing: Dario Matteoni, of Argentina, has withdrawn from his super-middleweight bout with Nigel Benn, who will now meet Hector Lescano, of Argentina, in Manchester on December 7. Matteoni had weight problems. Lescano is the World Boxing Council No. 13.

☐ Yuan Qinghai, the China team captain at the world amateur championships, is in hiding in Sydney, seeking political asylum or refugee status.

LITTLEWOODS POOLS, LIVERPOOL

THIS WEEK'S TOP WINNERS

BIRMINGHAM MAN MINE £394,626
NOTTINGHAM MAN MADE £398,891
BIRMINGHAM MAN MINE £396,895
DERBYSHIRE MAN MINE £394,626
SURREY WOMAN WINS £392,738
DERBYSHIRE MAN MINE £392,738

EBLE CHANCE PAYING 6 DIVIDENDS
PTS £388,746.00
PTS £3,786.50
½ PTS £485.45
PTS £249.55
½ PTS £53.25
PTS £13.65

4 DRAWS £47.40
10 HOMES £879.35
5 AWAYS £150.85

Expenses and Commission 9th November 1991 = 30.7%
All dividends subject to reserving.

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FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

Uefa Cup
Third round, first leg
SWAROVSKI (0) 0 LIVERPOOL (0) 2 Saunders 58, 78 13,500

OTHER RESULTS: AEK Athens 2, Torino 2.

EUROPEAN CUP: Group B: Dynamo Kiev 1, Benfica 0.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: Chelsea 0, Tottenham 3; Swindon 1, Queen's Park Rangers 0; West Ham 2, Ipswich 2.

CAPITAL LEAGUE: Cambridge United 3, Aldershot 0.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (in Hong Kong): Semi-finals: Norway 4, Sweden 1; United States 5, Germany 2.

EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN CUP: Finals: Group A: Uganda 2, Sudan 0 (in Kampala); Group B: Zambia 3, Zanzibar 2 (in Mbale).

Late results on Tuesday

FA CUP: First round: Windsor and Eton 2, Woking 4. Replays: Crewe 5, Carlisle 3 (aet); Farnborough 4, Halesowen 0; Gillingham 1, Brentford 3; Hereford 3, Altrincham 0; Rotherham 3, Scunthorpe 3 (aet: Rotherham won 7-6 on penalties); Telford 2, Stoke 1.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Second division: Wolves 2, Grimsby 1. Third division: Stockport 1, Shrewsbury 4.

ZENITH DATA SYSTEMS CUP: Northern area: Middlesbrough 0, Tranmere 1; Notts County 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. Southern area: Chelsea 2, Ipswich 2 (aet: Chelsea won 4-3 on penalties): Plymouth 0, Southampton 1; Queen's Park Rangers 0, Crystal Palace 3; West Ham 2, Brighton 0.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Barrow 2, Macclesfield 0; Redbridge 3, Bath 1; Stafford 0, Boston 1.

B AND Q SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Forfar 0, Ayr 1.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 1, Kingstonian 0; Bishop's Stortford 1, Aylesbury 0; Enfield 1, Wivenhoe 0; Hayes 0, Sutton United 2; Wokingham 2, Hendon 1. First division: Maidenhead 1, Molesey 2. Second division: Banstead 0, Hungerford 1; Billericay 4, Southwick 0; Egham 3, Ruislip Manor 2; Saffron Walden 2, Berkhamsted 0. Third division: Chertsey 4, Camberley 0; Hampton 0, Collier Row 3.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Knowsley 2, Horwich 1.

IRISH LEAGUE: Cawoods County Antrim Shield: Ballyclare Comrades 2, Clitonville 1; Newry 1, Crusaders 1 (aet: Crusaders won 5-4 on penalties); Carrick Rangers 1, Glentoran 2; Distillery 0, Portadown 3; Larne 1, Glenavon 1 (aet: Glenavon won 3-0 on penalties); Limfield 1, Ballymena 0; Ards 5, Comber Rec 0.

FA VASE: Second round replays: Atherton LR 3, Ossett Town 1 (aet); Sudbury 2, Haverhill 1 (aet); Thatcham 2, Maiden Vale 3, Hastings 2, Langney Sports 1

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: March 4, Thetford 1, Newmarket 2, Wroxham 2, Wisbech 4, Histon 2.

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE: Cambridge University 1, Weybridge Hawks 0. Postponed: Oxford University v Blackheath.

CRYSTAL PALACE INDOOR LEAGUE: East Grinstead 17, Beckenham 3, Old Loughtonians 6, Bromley 7.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York Knicks 98, Miami Heat 81; Detroit Pistons 103, Atlanta Hawks 93; Los Angeles Lakers 98, Orlando Magic 87; Houston Rockets 118, New Jersey Nets 109; Cleveland Cavaliers 95, Philadelphia 76ers 91; Denver Nuggets 103, Charlotte Hornets 97, Chicago Bulls 116, Los Angeles Clippers 79; Portland Trail Blazers 107, Milwaukee Bucks 98 (OT); Sacramento Kings 104, Phoenix Suns 88; Seattle Supersonics 136, Golden State Warriors 130 (OT)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): San Jose Sharks 4, Vancouver Canucks 1; Los Angeles Kings 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 4 (OT).

BOBSLEIGHING

INNSBRUCK: World Cup: Two-man: 1, W Hoppe and R Hannemann (Germany II), 1min 47.74sec; 2, G Weder and B Gerber (Switzerland I), 1.47.75; 3, G Rune and T Bachler (Austria II), 1.47.87; 4, G Huber and S Tice (Italy I), 1.48.11. Other British placing: equal 10, N Phipps and Pilching (GB II), 1.48.51. Overall (after three races): 1, R Lochner (Ger), 119pts; 2, Hoppe, 112; 3, Weder, 95; 4, Lon (Canada), 91; 5, Huber, 87; 6, Tout, 86.

BOXING

YORK: British welterweight championship (12 rnds): Delroy Bryan (Nottingham, holder) bt Mickey Hughes (Croydon), rsc 3rd rnd. Light-welter (6 rnds): Paul Knights (Redhill) bt Steve Hearn (Marlow), rsc 4th rnd. Welter (6 rnds): Ojay Abrahams (Watford) bt John Corcoran (Alfreton), pts.

CYCLING

ZURICH: Six-day race (after second night): 1, W Stutz and S Joho (Switz), 96pts; 2, S Martinello and P Bincoletto (It), 98; 3, B Risi and K Betschart (Switz), 73; 4, A Doyle (GB) and C Tourne (Bel), 71; 5, E de Wilde (Bel) and B Hollenweger (Switz), one lap behind; 6-7, 6, L Bianci and G Duclos-Lassalle (Fr), 20.

TENNIS

JOHANNESBURG: South African Open: Men's singles: First round: P Cash (Aus) bt L Bale (SA), 6-2, 6-3; P Korda (Cz) bt B Black (Zim), 7-5, 7-5; R Koenig (SA) bt M Ondruska (SA), 7-5, 7-6; A Jarryd (Swe) bt L Nemecek (Cz), 6-3, 6-7, 6-1; W Ferreira (SA) bt M Kaplan (SA), 7-6, 6-0; G Muller (SA) bt D Pate (US), 6-3, 6-4. Second round: G Connell (Can) bt G Michibata (Can), 6-4, 8-4; S Davis (US) bt J Fitzgerald (Aus), 8-3, 6-3; T Witsken (US) bt K Curren (US), 6-4, 6-3.

VOLLEYBALL

JAPAN: Men's World Cup: Preliminary round: Group A (in Hiroshima): Mexico bt Chile, 3-1; United States bt Tunisia, 3-1; Soviet Union bt Japan, 3-0. Group B (in Matsumoto): Cuba bt Germany, 3-1; South Korea bt Iran, 3-0; Brazil bt Algeria, 3-0.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University 20, M R Steele Bodger's XV 23.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Bearwood 12, Shiplake 13, Caterham 13, Eltham 13; Haberdashers' Aske's 7, Hitchin 6; Oratory 9, London Oratory 0; RGS High Wycombe 34, Reading 0; Sutton Valence 15, Emanuel 10; Tiffin 12, Hampton 21; Wellington 3, Kelly 22. Daily Mail Cup: Midlands semi-final: King Edward VI, Stratford 12, Bedford Modern 21.

BADMINTON

WORLD RANKINGS: Final placings: Men: 1, A Wirasnala (Indo), 1,720pts; 2, Wu Wenkai (China), 1,295; 3, H Susanto (Indo), 1,290; 4, A B Kusuma (Indo), 1,170; equal 5, F Permadi (Indo) and P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den), 1,040. English placings: 13, D Hall, 825; 14, S Butler, 785. Women: 1, Huang Hua (China), 2,125; 2, S Susanti (Indo), 1,820; 3, S Kusumawardhani (Indo), 1,535; 4, S Jaroensiri (Thai), 1,030; 5, Bang Soo-hyun (S Kor), 1,005; 6, Lee Heung-soon (S Kor). English placing: 11, H Troke, 810.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v Bohemians (8.00).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Rotherham v Liverpool (7.00); Sheffield Wednesday v Sheffield United (7.00).

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: Reading v Portsmouth (2.00); Watford v Fulham (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: NatWest Trophy: First round: Derby v Hemel Hempstead; Sunderland v Manchester

RACKETS: Amateur singles championship (Queen's Club, London)

REAL TENNIS: British Open singles and doubles championships (Queen's Club, London)

SNOOKER: UK Open championship (Guild Hall, Preston).

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THE TIMES
SPORT
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28 1991

Ground-sharing agreement with Fulham could be part of compromise as club's dispute with landlord nears settlement

Chelsea likely to stay at Stamford Bridge

BY MATTHEW BOND AND DENNIS SIGNY

THE long-running dispute between Chelsea Football Club and its landlord, the publicly-quoted property company Cabra Estates, could soon be settled by a deal that would secure the future of football at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground but would remove Fulham from their Thames-side ground at Craven Cottage.

The growing optimism last night followed a day in which Cabra, which is itself £52 million in debt, threatened Chelsea with eviction and bankruptcy if the club failed to come up with £22.85 million, the price of the 11.7-acre site determined by an independent property expert and apparently binding on both Cabra and Chelsea.

However, with Cabra facing the prospect of having to pay Jimmy Hill's Fulham over £10 million to leave Craven Cottage, a compromise deal is expected to be hammered out which would see Fulham sharing Stamford Bridge with Chelsea.

The £22.85 million valuation arrived at by William Wells, senior partner of Chestertons, the property agent, is thought to have come as a disappointment to both sides. When Cabra took over Marler Estates in 1989, Stamford Bridge had been valued at £40 million with Chelsea still playing there, and at £60 million if the club could be pursuaded to leave. Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, has recently expressed a conviction that after the slump in property values, the ground could be worth as little as £6 million.

John Duggan, chairman of Cabra, described Wells's valuation as "a good figure" and expressed confidence that Chelsea would now complete the option they had formally exercised. He said he would not have had the same confidence of the deal being completed had Wells come up with a "macho figure" of £35 million to £40 million.

"This is a figure that is sensible, a good British compromise," Duggan said. But he warned that Cabra would pursue Chelsea "very vigorously" if they now failed to complete the deal within 56 days.

"This is now a perfected property contract and will become a debt to Chelsea in 28 days' time," he added. Even allowing for a 28-day notice period, Duggan said Chelsea would have to complete within 56 days.

Duggan said failure to complete would lead to the club being evicted from the ground. He said that in addition the debt could be pursued to the bankruptcy courts. "If that is what we decide is the best course of action to pursue our aim, we will do so," he said. "I have never wanted to kick Chelsea out of Stamford Bridge but I don't want any other compromises."

Bates said: "We are delighted that at last we have got a firm figure. Now at last the uncertainty is out of the way. We are confident that this will be resolved in the near future, although there are other matters to be resolved, including four High Court actions.

"I'm sure, however, that with goodwill on the part of Cabra, these points can be cleared up, with the added fact that Fulham's future will also be secured by moving to Stamford Bridge."

Bates spent the afternoon watching Chelsea's reserves play Tottenham Hotspur reserves at Stamford Bridge.

Despite the tough public line being taken by Cabra, there are real hopes of a compromise deal being worked out. Elliott Bernerd, whose private company controls the Wentworth golf club, is understood to be acting as peacebroker between Bates and Duggan, but has no financial interest in the deal.

Duggan admitted yesterday that he had had recent negotiations with Bates and said he had struck a compromise deal with Jimmy Hill, which reduced the price Cabra would pay Fulham to quit Craven Cottage from £13 million to £10.25 million. However, he said Fulham would not get their money until Chelsea had paid for Stamford Bridge.

Any compromise deal would be worked out at the level of SB Property, the Cabra subsidiary that owns both Stamford Bridge and Craven Cottage. Having paid under £1.5 million for Stamford Bridge ten years ago, SB faces a huge capital gains tax bill if it sells Stamford Bridge for £22.85 million and still find funds to pay Fulham to leave Craven Cottage.

The key to any compromise is the fact that Cabra owns only 83.5 per cent of SB Property. The biggest of SB's minority shareholders is Bates. If a consortium led by Bates can strike a deal with Cabra for its 83.5 per cent stake, SB would emerge with Stamford Bridge, while Cabra would walk away with Craven Cottage and, no doubt, a few million pounds.



The Chelsea dream: an artist's impression of the proposed redevelopment of Stamford Bridge, looking towards the Shed and with the existing east stand, which will be retained, on the left

1982: SB Properties takes control of both Chelsea and the ground, leasing Stamford Bridge back to the club for seven years. Under the lease Chelsea can purchase the freehold of Stamford Bridge in the 12 months before it expires.
1984: SB Properties — the original holders of the Chelsea lease before becoming a subsidiary of Marler Estates, which subsequently makes way for Cabra — submit, in October, a planning application for Stamford Bridge which does away with the football pitch.
1987: Unofficial valuation of Stamford Bridge of £109 million, nearly £10 million an acre. Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, unveils redevelopment plans. In March, Marler Estates, already the owners of Fulham's Craven Cottage ground, acquire Queen's Park Rangers. David Bulstrode, chairman of Fulham and Marler Estates, says Chelsea would have to find £40 million for Stamford Bridge, a figure disputed by Bates.
1988: In May, Bates restates that Chelsea intend to buy Stamford Bridge before the lease expires.
1989: A planning enquiry approves Chelsea's scheme to build new grandstands, luxury flats, community centre and business premises. SB Properties had permission for a scheme half as dense as this.
1990: In August, Hammersmith and Fulham council grants Chelsea planning permission to build a new stadium and club offices, a 160-room hotel and luxury flats.
1991: An independent arbiter, called in to settle the dispute between Chelsea and Cabra on the ground's value, tells Chelsea they can purchase the freehold for £22,850,000 or face a bankruptcy order from the owners.

Cowans moves to Blackburn

BY CHRIS MOORE

GORDON Cowans, the Aston Villa midfield player, joined Blackburn Rovers in a £200,000 deal last night. The former England international, aged 33, spent 16 years at Villa Park, interrupted by a spell in Italian football with Bari, and made 508 first-team appearances for the club.

Cowans, who has been awarded a testimonial match at Villa Park, will make his debut for Blackburn in the second division match with Middlesbrough at Ewood Park on Saturday.

"The deal was done in three hours flat," Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, said. "It's a smashing move for Cowans and a smashing signing for Blackburn. They want to be in the top flight next season and are building a team to get them there. I think Gordon could help them do it."

The transfer means that, since arriving at Villa Park in the summer, Atkinson has been involved in deals totalling £13 million on 20 players.

He has spent £4.5 million and brought in £8.5 million, which includes £5.5 million for David Platt, the England international, who joined Bari in the summer.

Graham Turner, the Wolverhampton Wanderers manager, and the rest of the Molineux managerial team were yesterday granted a stay of execution by the board of directors.

The futures of Turner, his assistant, Garry Pendrey, and the youth team coach, Chris Evans, had been the subject of a board meeting lasting almost five hours. A statement confirmed they would keep their jobs, although it warned that results must continue to improve.

Before the 2-1 win over Grimsby Town in the second division on Tuesday, Wolves had gone 12 League and cup matches without a victory.

What is it that makes you so special?

Please complete the questionnaire below to find out what makes you different from the rest of mankind.

Delete where applicable

Q	Are you immortal? (If yes, then go to the last question)	A	Yes/No
Q	Are you healthy/unhealthy?	A	.....
Q	Are you young/middle-aged/old?	A	.....
Q	Would you mind being paralysed?	A	Yes/No
Q	Would you miss talking and walking?	A	Yes/No
Q	Does it worry you that this week 2,000 people in Britain will suffer a disease that attacks the brain?	A	Yes/No
Q	Do you think you might be at risk?	A	Yes/No
Q	Did you know that a stroke kills or seriously disables little babies, brothers, teenagers and elderly people DAILY?	A	Yes/No
Q	Did you know that just £15 will pay for an hour of research?	A	Yes/No
Q	Are you going to give money towards research that could save you life? (if you are immortal then perhaps you could consider saving a friend)	A	Yes/No

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Saunders spearheads Liverpool

Swarovski Tirol 0
Liverpool 2

FROM STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN INNSBRUCK

DEAN Saunders, finding his feet again on the European stage, last night scored both of the goals which will surely take Liverpool through to the last eight of the Uefa Cup. On a frosty pitch lying in the shadow of the Austrian Alps, Britain's most expensive player chose the occasion to reaffirm his value.

The scorer of four goals in the first round against Kuusysi Lahti, he led a patchwork team, including inexperienced reserves and recuperating patients, to victory over Swarovski Tirol here in the first leg of the third-round tie. He was assisted ably by McManaman, who spoiled his vibrant contribution by being needlessly booked for failing to retreat ten yards.

Saunders, whose League form has been criticised, justifiably won the individual acclaim but Liverpool, as a whole, recalled memories of the club's past performances abroad. After drawing the sting from their opponents, they struck themselves in a manner which will almost certainly be decisive.

Gorosito carries the typical South American impudence which could yet pose a threat at Anfield in a fortnight. Slight of stature, the 28-year-old Argentinian often gave the ball away but initially he used it to greater effect than anyone. Whenever he was in possession, Liverpool had to be at their most alert.

Although they were unable to restrain the individual with the flowing dark locks, they adequately covered those he released. The sense of defensive authority was provided principally by Wright, though he inevitably lacked sharpness after an absence of more than three months.

ROSS KINNAIRD



Temprarily grounded: Saunders, of Liverpool, is tripped by Gorosito in last night's victory at Innsbruck

Apart from reinforcing the security in the air, a route not often taken by the Austrians other than at set pieces, he put himself in charge of arranging the back line. His presence alone was a source of comfort, especially to Tanner, his less elegant but effective central partner.

As a consequence, Grobbelaar was seldom genuinely exposed. Stretched to the limit, he had to leap to catch one-handed a back pass overhit by Nicol but Liverpool's goalkeeper was otherwise troubled, before the interval, only by a drive struck by Pacult from an oblique angle on the half-hour.

In the second half, Wright made two important interceptions, by blocking potentially dangerous shots from Hartmann and Pacult, but Liverpool were unhinged only once. They escaped punishment because Westerthaler, freed by Linzmaier, directed his attempt at the chest of Grobbelaar.

Swarovski Tirol, who had eliminated Finnish and Greek opponents in previous rounds, were described by Graeme Souness as capable of "fitting comfortably in the English first division". Managed by Ernst Happel, who led the Netherlands to the World Cup final in 1978, their organisation was as evident as their skill on the ball.

Champions twice in the last three years, they held Liverpool for almost an hour. Only then did their defence assume the brittle characteristic of their sponsor's product. Swarovski, a local firm, manufacture crystal ornaments and Saunders, in a moment of quick thinking, reduced the Austrian rearguard to rubble.

Ablett, chasing an apparent lost cause, won a throw-in on the edge of the opposition's area and sought to take it without hesitation. Saunders alone read his intention and held off the challenge of the retreating Wazinger before squeezing the ball through the legs of the unprotected Oraze.

The goal made all the difference. Liverpool, nervous and diffident at the start, were by now swaggering and even Molby, who had watched much of the game pass him by, joined in the fun by laying on the second goal for Saunders a dozen minutes from the end.

SWAROVSKI TIROL: M Oraze; J Hirtmann, K Russ, M Posch, R Wazinger, P Pacult, M Linzmaier, H Streiter, C Westerthaler, P Gorosito, A Hortnegl (sub: R Kirchler).

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; S Harkness, G Ablett, S Nicol, M Wright, N Tanner, D Saunders, M Marsh, S McManaman, J Molby, S McMahon.
Referee: E Frederiksson (Sweden).

☐ **Athens** — AEK Athens drew 2-2 against Torino here yesterday in a third round, first leg Uefa Cup match. The Italians are favoured to advance to the fourth round after their return match in two weeks.

AEK went on the attack from the start and managed to take a 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute with a blistering shot from a free-kick by Portuguese forward, Batista.

But the Italians levelled in the 33rd minute with a header by Walter Casagrande, the Brazilian, from Martin Vasquez's cross. Three minutes later, the Italians went 2-1 ahead from a header by Giorgio Bresciani, also from a cross by Vasquez. AEK levelled in the 78th minute through Sabanatzovic, the Yugoslav.

Rookie of year

Golf: Per-Ulrik Johansson, of Sweden, has been voted the European Tour's Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year Award.

Gallacher will apply the lessons of Kiawah

BY MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

BERNARD Gallacher will today resume his role as Europe's Ryder Cup captain when he is officially reappointed for the match against the United States at The Belfry in September 1993.

Gallacher's election at a meeting of the Ryder Cup committee in London is a formality. He has the full support of players and officials alike.

Even so, Gallacher will be entrusted with much more than winning back the coveted golden chalice which the United States regained two months ago.

He must help negotiate a system to eliminate the possibility of a player becoming a spectator, as was the case at Kiawah Island. There, Gallacher, as captain, had the unenviable duty of placing the name of one player in an envelope in the event of a member of the opposition being injured.

He chose David Gilford, and Gilford was inconsolable on being told only minutes before the singles series that his services were not required because Steve Pate, the American who was injured in a road accident earlier in the week, had withdrawn. Gallacher felt as wretched as Gilford. He will not want a repeat of that incident, and his obvious course of action is to negotiate for a reserve to eliminate the embarrassment of using the envelope. Tom Watson, the new United States captain, has said there is no need to change. But Gallacher can point to the introduction of substitutes in other sports and to the importance of the Ryder Cup, which is viewed by both sides as the "fifth major".

The suspicion is that Gallacher could go much further, by agreeing to the American request for there to be more matches. The Americans have long campaigned for five rather than four matches in each of the foursomes and fourball series.

A compromise is the likeliest outcome, because with daylight hours being an important consideration, it would seem most likely that only one of the series could be extended, so producing nine matches on each of the first two days. It would certainly answer the cry for more golf. What is more, Gallacher is in the position to be positive because Europe now has the strength in depth to answer the American challenge.

Gallacher will also be involved in discussions on the possibility of lengthening the qualifying period for the Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup points table. Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, favours this beginning from the European Masters in Switzerland at the start of September and closing at the German Open at the end of August next year. In the past, the qualifying period has started in the same year as the matches.



Gallacher: fully backed

The advantage of starting during this season for next year's match is that qualifying points would be available in tournaments such as the European Open, Lancôme Open, German Masters and Volvo Masters, in which many of the leading players compete. In other words, it would increase the prospect of all the leading players automatically qualifying. This year, Gallacher was compelled to select Nick Faldo as one of his three wild cards.

If such a change was introduced, it is also possible that Gallacher would agree to fall in line with the Americans by reducing the number of selected players from three to two. This would need to be debated by both the organising bodies, although it would seem fair to standardise the situation.

The decision to reinstate Gallacher as captain is the right one. He learned much from Kiawah Island, and will be all the wiser for next year's match. Gallacher had the good sense to admit that he made mistakes during the last match, which the United States won by 14½ points to 13½, and he deserves the chance to emulate Tony Jacklin, his predecessor, by winning at The Belfry.

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